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CLINTON:  
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# Maclean's

FEBRUARY 22, 1999

CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

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# From The Editor

## The Whopper in public life



In the past 12 months, U.S. President Bill Clinton has given us big a good name. He elevated himself to the status of a presidential lion. His details about his sexual involvement with "that woman, Miss Lewinsky" constitute one of the most bizarre exercises in lying in recent memory by a high official. Despite Clinton's acquittal last week by the U.S. Senate, and his renewed apology for his misdeeds, his legacy will be defined by the tawdry sex scandal—and by the big lie.

Bill Clinton has brought back the Whopper and the brand seems to be flourishing elsewhere in public life, from city hall to Toronto to the Prime Minister's Office in Ottawa. Last week alone, the mayor of Toronto and the Prime Minister of Canada told Whoppers that got them into trouble. For his excitable part, Mayor Mel Lastman claimed that after rushing to Toronto Hospital with heart palpitations, he worked nine hours and "I couldn't even get a bed." Turned out the Whopper didn't need a bed. When the hospital brought that fact to light, the Whopper promptly pronounced the cure he had received "wonderful." He was back at work the next day.

The Canadian Whopper arrived last week, however, went to John Chretien for his claim that he had not received sufficient notice to arrange a flight from Windsor, B.C., where he was dining with his family, to Annapolis, Maryland, for the funeral of King Hussein. The gaffe struck a raw nerve with Canadians, ever proud of Canada's profile in international affairs. What made it worse was the fact that Clinton managed to gather up three of his predecessors



Clinton's Damascus apology in odd posture

for the trip—including Gerald Ford in Caldera—while other attendees harbored the seriously illing Bern Yellin from Russia, the crown prince and prime minister of Japan, the other four leaders of the G-8, Prince Charles and the prime minister of Nunavut. The outrage over the Clinton episode grew when it became clear that he could indeed have made the funeral had he wanted to. On Wednesday, he apologized to the Canadians—and, in an odd gesture, held up a handwritten sign reading "I'm sorry."

That was the answer that could have capped the kiss in the bud on Monday that span control is now the way of modern government—and, for his case, the PM's countries could do themselves. They conducted an elaborate story and, for an explained reason, the Prime Minister went along with it—even getting the date of the armed forces to take the blame for not having a jet ready for him. It had the familiar ring of the APEC case, wherein Clinton said he had nothing to do with the RCMP crackdown on demonstrators at 1997's meeting of Asia Pacific leaders in Vancouver.

The Prime Minister's penchant for shifting blame is a tradition and so becoming of a leader with his experience. So far, he has managed to escape the wrath of voters. Last week's Big Whopper may be another story.

Robert Lewis



## Newsroom Notes:

### Covering the health beat

This week's report on "Men's Health" (page 28) is part of Maclean's continuing commitment to health- and medicine-related subjects. In the Jan. 12 issue last year, we looked at the female side of the equation in a cover package on "Women's health: new attitudes, new solutions." Health and Science Editor Mark Richards, who led the writing team on both occasions, concludes: "Canadian

men need to do a much better job of looking after themselves—by eating better, getting fitter and quitting cigarettes."

Maclean's reports on some aspect of health care each week, at story length or in pages of bulletins called Health Monitor. Other recent cover packages have included "Canada's obesity epidemic" (Jan. 11, 1999), "Whistle blower" (Nov. 16, 1998), on the debate between money and morality in the world of medical research, "The Maclean's health report" (June 15, 1998), on the status of health-care delivery nationally and "Eating right" (Oct. 27, 1997), on the latest research into healthy—and unhealthy—foods.

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I ponder the lesser shared and appalling acts by the majority of our government representatives, while dozens of people with twisted, ill-formed views on child pornography scurry out back and forth at this latest fiasco. How many millions of dollars are we going to pay for appeals because 163 MPs exhibited either a lack of courage, principle or moral values in voting down the Reform bill for Ontario to invoke the reestablishing clause to overturn the irresponsible, irresponsible decision of a B.C. judge?

Walter Baines,  
Cambridge, Ont.

## Tar-pond symptoms

I grew up in the heart of Sydney, N.S., an Atlantic town that I caught in the brook that empties into the Minas Creek Watershed. The correct geographic name for the tar ponds, worked for summers at the steel plant and eventually ended up as an alderman on Sydney city council representing the ward that included that controversial facility. Given that background, I was particularly interested in "Sydney's dangerous legacy" (Canada, Feb. 8). There can be no doubt that there is a very large amount of medical in doubt in Sydney, but that this is the cause of illnesses claimed by some residents is far from certain. Although there seems to be an abundance of evidence to suggest that many of the problems complained about are caused by lifestyle, mass hysteria or simply coincidence, Mackenzie's apparently accurate, mostly anecdotal evidence in proof that the symptoms are caused by a flawed environment. The credibility of such a conclusion is as suspect as your geography: you have moved the infamous Love Canal from New York to New Jersey.

Bert Smith,  
Saint John, N.B.

Elizabeth May's contention that the Sydney dumps pose a "much greater risk to human health" than the Love Canal is highly questionable. While the Sydney situation is tragic for the residents of that city, Love Canal's linkage into the victims and environmental the Niagara River and western Lake Ontario, in addition to causing similar serious short-term health problems for local residents, may still be affecting the long-term health of millions of downstream Canadians and Americans.

Nancy L. Ferguson,  
Retired assistant deputy minister,  
Environment Canada,  
Toronto

## Quebec's aspirations

Having recently relocated to Toronto from Montreal, I have posted "A gesture towards Quebec" (The Road Ahead, Jan. 18) on my refrigerator door. It will serve as a reminder to my visiting national friends from home that not all English-Canadians are as naive as they believe them to be. I sincerely hope that Signeund Hesteth's agricultural point of view is shared by a majority of English-Canadians. It is a sad day when adopted Canadians such as Mr. Hesteth have a better understanding of Canadian history than Quebec's very own Jean Chretien and Stéphane Duro. And it is an even sadder day when their reported ratings are so high outside Quebec. No wonder the Parti Québécois and the Bloc Québécois keep getting voted back into office. Maybe the situation would be different if opinions such as Mr. Hesteth's were given a louder voice.

Charles Zanetti,  
Toronto

## Mixing oil and cattle

When David Manning stated, "There are no studies that we or anyone else have done that have demonstrated any link between burning oil fumes or animal health" ("Disturbing the peace," Special Report, Feb. 8), he may have just been reinforced. Considering he is the president of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, though, it's hard to believe he wouldn't know about a 1985 study that suggests a link between burning oil fumes and animal health. Dr. Cheryl Waldner, with the department of herd medicine and theriogenology at Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon, conducted the study. The results indicate a correlation between burning and stillbirths and other reproductive complications. The oil and gas industry is an integral part of Alberta's economy, but they must start acting more responsibly. I think Manning's statements are akin to the tobacco industry assuring people that smoking does not cause cancer.

Alvin Forsyth,  
Saskatoon, Alta.

## CLARIFICATION

While a potential placement for this over-the-counter dietary aid, Decadron was not approved for sale in Canada, as noted in "Toppers and Bottomers" (Jan. 11), the original version, using an approved active ingredient, is available in Canada, and has been since the 1960s.

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Ingrate with Peter C. Newman that the pro-independence of American culture is brotherly feeling and Canadians are right to be suspicious that such a step is essential destiny (The 250th of Sheila Coote, street fighter); Jan 20, 20, But to eventually call our country a "patty culture" requiring protection from American entrepreneurship is more than a little offensive. Within our own borders there is the requisite talent and resources to maintain a vibrant cultural presence. Canadian readers and advertisers will gain Canadian publications that deliver a unique Canadian editorial product. In the pursuit of ensuring Canadian magazines deliver a Canadian culture, Bell C-55 has no intention of would not bolster Canadian content, as there is no reference to culture or Canadian content in the proposed legislation. If some protections are deemed necessary to ensure a vibrant Canadian magazine industry approaches that Bell C-55 could be the catalyst. Of course, the likes of Rogers Communications Ltd. (which owns Maclean's), Shuter, publisher of Maclean's) would, as Newman says, survive Bell C-55. That's because Rogers, along with Telemedia Inc., captures the local share of magazine revenues in the country. Bell C-55 would maintain the clubby environment by reducing competition. Periodically do this a special place in providing to cultural experience and entertainment. *Adrienne* advocates that. We agree. Without Canadian magazine industry Bell C-55 does not take on one centimetre closer to ensuring that important goal.

Ronald S. Lewis  
President and CEO  
Association of Canadian Advertisers

Toronto

As a Canadian newspaper publisher, I've often appreciated that some Canadian argue for allowing U.S. split-run campaigns to advertise in Canada. Canada's business journalists and columnists in particular should understand that foreign publications

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# Anthony Wilson-Smith

## The case for propinquity

sis evolved in a different pace in Ottawa. In a piece that he wrote about the parliamentary press gallery in 1980, journalist Jerry MacGregor described the typical reporter as being a "male, close to 30 years of age, 600 middle-class background (perhaps slightly laid-off), university educated, literate in journalism, somewhat conservative in his views, lacking in political acumen, and tragically rusty about his lack of knowledge of political history. He would be fairly Conservative in his soul, Liberal in print, and NDP in the bar." Almost two decades later, the only differences are that the average reporter is closer to 40 than 30, there are more women—about half of The Toronto Star's 150 is said to be of a place where writing is a career, and the NDP is no longer the underdog as NDP would be a good career move.

Of different jobs in journalism, covering politics has traditionally been the most prestigious—and arguably the most problem-filled. Once, a stint in Ottawa was mandatory for anyone wanting to get ahead in the business. Even now, while politicians are in bad odour, journalists who cover them live a charmed life. If you work for a large organization, the perks include the chance to travel the world with the prime minister, to regularly meet with the nation's leading policymakers, and to build a lucrative, high-profile sideline in speeches and television punditry. Covering politics offers the opportunity to influence the news rather than just report it.

That, of course, is one of the most obvious potential problems with political reporting, as Bill Foran notes in his excellent, upcoming book *Spin Masters*. Foran, one of Canada's best-connected people on either side of the journalistic divide, knows firsthand the distinction between hunters (reporters) and their prey (politicians). He was an Ottawa and Washington bureau chief for the *Star* before becoming Brian Mulroney's first press secretary. His persuasive, well-researched book, due in April, argues that politicians and journalists bet themselves by failing to realize the context in which they need each other. In the absence of that recognition, the spinners selfishly—and the public is the innocent loser.

Most people in Ottawa have worked in Ottawa but outside the truth at that time—in private. In the 1950s, the relationship between politicians and journalists was so close that cabinet ministers would often ask cabinetiers in advance about policy—thus ensuring a favorable reception. That was age extreme, but today's counterparts aren't gone different dangers. Some of the best American journalists, such as Bruce Sawyer and Tim Russert, began life writing for politicians. But in Canada, journalists who "cross over" to work for politicians usually can't come back—despite the fact that the experience is exactly matches their understanding. No successful politician complains publicly about his press because that is a one-way ticket.

worse coverage—or, the ultimate indignity, being ignored. The press gallery knows that politicians are like the characters on the children's show, *Teletubbies*: no matter how bad things get, they must smile and coo because that is expected of them. On the rare occasion that politicians decide they've had enough and take their critics, the shocked recipient tends, like a distraught *Teletubby*, never to dissolve into a sobfest, but, in fact, to cry out loud for a while.

But the relationship between journalists and politicians is more complex than simply adversarial. As Fox says, the two need good relations: for access to the outside world on the part of politicians, and, for reporters, for scoop, colour, and the all-important sense that they are well wired. That's why those bureaus that journalists should be wary of getting too close to sources and shouldn't use unattributed quotes are such nonsense.

Some years ago, CBC anchor Peter Mansbridge was criticized for accepting an invitation to dinner at 26 Sussex Drive with Menzies after that *galaxy* among those not invited. It's hard to understand the upset. If journalists and their subjects better understand each other, that falls under the category of knowledge—which is usually a good thing. Why, as a reviewer of news, would anyone who knows no more about a subject than you do? Information is a journalist's stock-in-trade, and access to important people provides the edge.

Moreover, all-forded exchanges serve several useful purposes. Subjects can explain their thoughts freely without parroting the party line, or worrying about every word being poorly thought. Imagine your own reaction if a business critic came into your office and asked your opinion of your boss. Even if you just throw a chain of clichés, you'd be glad to get out of it. Different people will be different—and most are useful. Sure, such quarters are easy to suffer a personal agenda: a good reporter knows that, and has enough astuteness to place the remarks in context.

Another problem is that even when politicians and journalists try to race each other with each other, they still get it wrong. Consider last year's version of the annual press gallery dinner. It was to be a closed-door, off-the-record affair. Now, it's public and on-record—but everyone behaves much as they did before. At the time of the dinner, politicians had been after the head of then-secretary general Andy Scott for his role in the so-called APSC affair. Jane Christie was vehemently disclaiming him. But anyone who watched the event, telecast on the C-SPAN channel, saw the Prime Minister coaching Scott—and his lawyer—on how to respond to the press. And the press did what they were told to do: they took the Prime Minister's word and left him to return to his postcard palace. Two others, in third place, were the women and children and politicians, it's the public that's pushed to the side, it will forever be pushed and will never be an equal force.

# Opening NOTES

Edited by BARBARA WICKENS

## A silver lining

In the waning days of the Second World War, when soldiers from Maj. Ken Farmer's Manitoba Dragoons assigned car unit moved into the German town of Gies, they were stunned by one of their finds: Inside one building was a photograph of Nazi officials congratulating Canada's silver-medal hockey team at the 1936 Winter Olympics in Garmisch-Partenkirchen. Gee money. Prominent among the hockey players was Farmer, then a 23-year-old amateur star. "It was so amusing coincidence and a good lot of good laughs to the men," Farmer told *Macleod's*.

It was one of the memories of war, politics and sport that Farmer recalled last week when a ceremony in Montreal, where International Olympic Committee vice-president Richard Poind presented Farmer with a replica of the medal he clinched decades ago. The 86-year-old retired accountant, and former president of the Canadian Olympic Association, also spoke of his encounter with Adolf Hitler. Farmer and an American player had just finished checking the outdoor ice surface at the Garmisch site. "Hitler arrived with his whole bloody phalanx, giving the Nazi salute to everybody," says Farmer. As Hitler's retinue milled about, they blocked Farmer's entrance to the Canadian dressing room. The Philby himself noticed the hockey player's gesture. "He saw he had trapped us," says Farmer. "So he gave us the Nazi salute and marched away." Farmer is embarrassed now that he and the American returned the gesture. "There was little bitterness about Germans at that time."



Farmer with new medal; score from 1936 Olympics salute



What was better for Farmer and his teammates from the Dart Arthur Bearcats was their unprecedented loss—Canada's first—in the gold-medal game. A British team made up of Canadian-raised players defeated them 2-1. "It was a terrible upset, of course, but the English team had a tremendous profile and he won it for them." A silver medal, yes, but pride is necessary.

## EMPORIUM

Last week, the Toronto Maple Leafs played their last game in the Arca Gardens that bears their name. With their move to the Air Canada Centre, the Leafs have gained a long list of NHL clubs that play in buildings with Olden Coote Smith's would never have recognized. The league's brand name ice palaces:



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(New Jersey Devils)  
American Airlines  
National Car Rental  
Center  
(Florida Panthers)  
General Motors Place  
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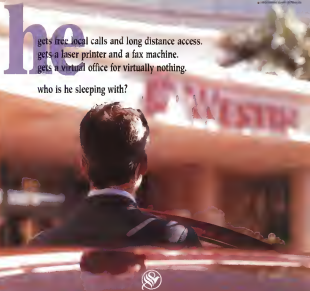
## GOLDFARB POLL

When 1,400 Canadians were asked what they thought of some controversial issues, pollsters detected a slight—but noticeable—gender bias. Women were more likely than men to answer yes when asked if the following was morally wrong. By percentage:

	Male	Female
Capital punishment	37	35
Animal organ transplant	27	33
Euthanasia	33	33

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Howe in 1993 and now: client operator

## DOUBLE TAKE

### Margherita Howe

It has been 20 years since Margherita Howe, now 77, took over a local public library by jumping on a table and bawling an old pot with a wooden spoon. When the Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont., resident had everyone's attention, she told presiding Canadian and American environmental officials to stop using the Niagara River, and ultimately Lake Ontario, as a dump for toxic chemicals. It was in the wake of the Love Canal disaster in Niagara Falls, N.Y., where chemicals from leaching dumps had forced hundreds from their homes. Other toxic dumps threatened the river, as did a proposed pipeline for treated chemical waste, so Howe ma-

bilized citizens with her Operation Clean Niagara campaign. Her environmental work earned her a reputation for being among the Order of Canada in 2003 and a big prize in 1987—an unprecedented bilateral agreement to clean up the river.

Howe's latest cause: fighting proposals by local officials the says would make historic Niagara-on-the-Lake—much draws more than three million tourists each year—less livable for its residents. Under the plans, the library, community centre, bowling green, swimming pool and soccer fields would be moved away from the town's heart. "All these things are what makes up a town," says the mother of four and grandmother of five. "The reason millions of people come here is because it is a real town."

JOHN NICOL

## POP MOVIES

### The sky is the limit

Laura Dern plays the mother of an budding rocket scientist in *October Sky*, the true story of NASA space engineer Homer Hickam Jr. (Jake Gyllenhaal)—who looks skewed to escape the orbit of his coal-mining family in West Virginia.



The movies in Canada listed according to box office receipts during the week ending Oct. 10. For the latest info, visit [boxoffice Mojo.com](http://boxoffice Mojo.com). Numbers of awards/nominations in parentheses.

1. <i>October Sky</i> (12/10)	\$2,491,289
2. <i>Save the Turtles</i> (10/10)	\$1,284,444
3. <i>Shrek Forever After</i> (10/10)	\$1,172,249
4. <i>Peter Dinklage</i> (10/10)	\$625,228
5. <i>Strong Hearts</i> (10/10)	\$450,228
6. <i>Shrek</i> (10/10)	\$433,434
7. <i>Rocky Horror</i> (10/10)	\$431,228
8. <i>The Hot Chick</i> (10/10)	\$370,444
9. <i>A Good Woman</i> (10/10)	\$349,444
10. <i>Supercop</i> (10/10)	\$279,777

## BEST-SELLERS

### FICTION

1. *The Tumbler*, John Grisham (1)
2. *Enchanted*, Disney (1)
3. *Indignation*, Jay McInerney (1)
4. *The Road*, Cormac McCarthy (1)
5. *The Last of a Bad Man*, Alice LaPlante (1)
6. *Andromeda*, Jay McInerney (1)
7. *Save the Night*, David Levithan (1)
8. *The White House*, Barbara Ehrenreich (1)
9. *A Rose in the Field*, Tim Winton (1)
10. *Home from the Night*, Stuart M. Green (1)

### NONFICTION

1. *The Tumbler*, John Grisham (1)
2. *The Road*, Cormac McCarthy (1)
3. *The White House*, Barbara Ehrenreich (1)
4. *The Road*, Cormac McCarthy (1)
5. *The Road*, Cormac McCarthy (1)
6. *The Road*, Cormac McCarthy (1)
7. *The Road*, Cormac McCarthy (1)
8. *The Road*, Cormac McCarthy (1)
9. *The Road*, Cormac McCarthy (1)
10. *The Road*, Cormac McCarthy (1)

11. *Position bar well*, Compiled by David Scherer

## Apocalypse soon

Forget the Y2K bug—for true apocalyptic visions, consider the coming economic impact of aging populations, as ever fewer workers support ever more retirees. In *Gray Dawn*, Peter G. Peterson, investment banker and former U.S. secretary of commerce, subtly details a near future when the entire developed world has France's demographics.



# Passages

**DIED:** Alan Markland, 78, co-host of CBC Radio's public affairs program *As It Happens* from 1974 to 1993, of heart failure in Vancouver. Famous for his warm baritone, Markland worked with a series of co-hosts, including Barbara Frum, who nicknamed him "Fessie A" after he began reading short stories on the show.



**DIED:** Robert Clower, 77, veteran stage actor and sculptor best-known for his 19-year stint as the top-poaching out-mudgion Hark on CBC's *The Beachcombers*, of the effects of a 1996 stroke, in Vancouver.

**NAMED:** Charles Dubin, 77, an ethics adviser to the bidding committee seeking to bring the 2008 Olympic Games to Toronto. The former chief justice of the Ontario Court of Appeal, he led the 1989 inquiry into the *Ben Johnson* steroid scandal. Dubin will keep a watching brief over the committee's policy of naming a clean bid.

**DIED:** Denise LeBlond-Barry, 45, Paris, Quebec, Canadian mother from 1991 to 1984, of undisclosed causes, at her home in Montreal. A headline cover eugenicist and ardent feminist, she was said to be the first North American legislator to have given birth while holding office when her daughter Sarah was born in 1979.

**DIED:** Eliot Corday, 85, Canadian-born cardiologist to press baron William Randolph Hearst and U.S. Gen. Omar Bradley, in Los Angeles. Corday's work was instrumental in developing modern stress testing and nuclear cardiology.

**DIED:** Ben Sheppard, 97, pioneer cowboy and author, in High River, Alta. Born in a log cabin in southern Alberta, he ranched in the area all his life and in the 1970s wrote two colourful portraits of life on the range, *Spence Days* and *Just About Nothing*.

**NAMED:** Ernest Gruenewald, 51, as publisher of Montreal's *Le Devoir* newspaper, succeeding Luc Eusèbe, who stepped down last year. A 25-year veteran of the paper, he has been its managing editor since 1990.



Boat built in Vancouver's Lake, Kerala



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# RANGE WARS

BY BRUCE WALLACE

**T**he 125-year-old Manitoba Club may have loosened its restrictive membership code to keep pace with the times, but the red-brick building on Winnipeg's Broadway Avenue is still where the city's old money likes to go to sip scotch. The walls know how to keep a secret. It was the perfect place, in other words, for a clandestine meeting one night last May between senior capos of the Reform and Tory parties, as towns for a self-overlaid dinner thrown for 2,000 conservatively inclined supporters to mark Premier Gary Filmer's 50th anniversary in power. Canadians to see if they could patch up the nasty quarrel that has split Canada's conservative family. "We were like dogs sniffing each other out," recalls Thompson Macdonald, an Alberta Tory organizer who sat on one side of the table. Among the mood collections of Tories was Rod Lowe, the Alberta regarded as the tactical brains behind Premier Ralph Klein's political initiation, Peter White, the for-

mer adviser to Brian Mulroney who is adept at shaking money from the corporate elite, and Tarns Schulte, then Filmer's chief of staff.

Around from the Toronto suite two of Reform leader Preston Manning's most senior lieutenants: Cliff Fryer, a Calgary lawyer and Manning family friend who is now his chief of staff, and strategist Rick Anderson. Everyone agreed on what ailed them: As long as Reformers and Tories continued bashing away at one another for support from roughly the same conservative voting pool, the divided rule meant the Liberals could not be budged from power. Even if the crippled Tory party killed its operations, Reform had become so heavily identified as a western protest party that it could never hope to win the eastern seats needed to form a government. The point was so obvious that neither side even bothered bragging poll data. "It was really a rural Prairie kind of meeting, a this is what the kids are telling us' approach," one participant recalls.

The solution, they all agreed, was to hit the Liberals with one con-

blood message: There could be a merged version of the parties or a new entity altogether. But a united alternative had to be formed. There was some direct conversation about who might lead this new party, and some coded questions about whether Manning would leave the scene were. But the meeting—be subverted into something larger. The participants agreed on such understanding should not be seen as a belated initiative (which gave the Tories a bit of a jump a month later when Manning unveiled plans for a United Alternative convention at Bedford's Woods of Change conference), and they adjourned in agreement that the parties had to reconcile.

This week, the rest of the country will find out if they succeed. More than 1,000 delegates are expected to arrive in Ottawa for the three-day United Alternative convention in what may prove to be a historic turning point in Canadian political history. Or not: It has an equal shot at being an embarrassing bust. No one involved knows just what will emerge from this political mixture of Bible Belt social conservatives and fiscal restraint disciples, power-starved westerners and even some, like former Tory cabinet minister John Crosbie, who are coming just to tell them to forget the whole crazy idea. "My history in politics is that when I get involved, I know where a thing's going before I get there," laughs Alberta U.A. organizer Roy Speckert, 68, who has been close to Manning since the 1960s and has seen new parties come and go. "But this one's got a loose end on it."

The biggest obstacle to success comes from a man once believed to be already consigned to the history pages. Joe Clark, recognized the leadership of the Progressive Conservatives last

he back, probably shouldn't have bothered with all this, says a frustrated senior U.A. organizer in Calgary. "Things were going OK when we were focused on fighting the Liberals. Then Joe said the old party came back and Reformers and Tories suddenly look at each other and go, 'Oh, yeah, I forgot. I take your party.'"

Clark, 55, and Manning, 56, have long shared a medieval animosity since they clashed in model parliaments at the University of Alberta in Edmonton more than three decades ago. Their differences match the various shadings and fault lines that run through Alberta's conservative community. Clark, a Roman Catholic from the southern Alberta town of High River, was raised in a family of journalists who "were run ground down by the Depression." Manning, an evangelical Christian and government's son, was, as the pillars of the Social Credit movement—which had been forged from the grievance of Depression suffering.

Manning is a believer in the power of western populist movements to effect change from outside Central Canada's corridors of power. Clark's chosen path was to wheel and deal within them. He was, briefly, prime minister. "I didn't grow up with the sense, ever, that the rest of the country was against me," Clark said last week, trying to explain to Manning's what distinguished his politics from Manning's. "I knew the rest of the country would be a challenge. But I didn't think it existed to begin with." The two men know each other as ambitious young men in the 1960s, fought each other head-to-head in the 1988 federal election (Clark won), and saw their fortunes reversed when Manning's upset Reform pushed the venerable Tories to the precipice of extinction in 1993, humiliating them in their own western Canadian backyard.

Both men insist, for the record, their battle is not personal. "I'm not at all interested in settling old scores," Clark said at a news conference in Calgary. "We've never been close, but there's no great animosity." Manning told *Maclean's* last week. Others tell a different story. "Joe's just not a real Alberta," is the frequently heard Reform refrain. "Getting even is not part of Joe's makeup, but he shares the view that Manning is dangerous," says Clark's longtime friend Elmer Austin.

Although the formation of a single conservative party may be all about how to take findings from the Liberals in western Ontario, the crucible for its ideas and leading personalities in Alberta. The conservative movement in Canada is wrecked and started, as in Calgary U.A. organizer put it, "by a fight in the Alberta kitchen." The key cast members are all Albertans. Clark. Manning. Former Tory partner Peter Lougheed, 70, the conservative elder who still carries much clout and who has condemned Clark's decision to stay away from the convention. Alberta also features the most stubbornly ambitious members of the old conservative generation, the provincial treasurer Stockwell Day, 48. And finally the most obvious current candidate to bridge the Reform-Tory gap: Ralph Klein, 56, who actually runs a government that is as coalition of Reformers and Tories. Just as the Canadian unity question has been driven by a family feud between separatists and federalists within Quebec's political class, the explanation for why Reformers and Tories do not fit snugly together lies in a distinctly Alberta feud. And that feud's grudges and backstabs run just as deep.

The Unity of Alberta is not a heavily publicized campaign in the early 1990s, although it did have its own model parliament (at least until the "time period came along and killed it," remembers Speckert). The model's second purpose, that is, as Clark puts it, "at any time, at any venue, there are people who are looking around with their plans for the world." Many of the people at the assembly they would make a mark in politics (Dion Courts, later to become principal secretary to Pierre Trudeau, led the model Liberals, for example). Clark says he and Manning love to "quote different words on campus," cranking only in the model parliament where Clark led the Tories and Manning was a Second



**An old feud threatens Preston Manning's United Alternative dream**

Clark Manning (far left) discusses that senior Alberta's political feud now

November, and has made it clear he sees the U.A. as nothing more than an attempt by Reform to re-brand itself to become more palatable to Ontarians. He has rebuffed every attempt to get him to come to the convention, stilling the resolve of many other Tories to stay away. "Does Clark's attitude make the mountain much steeper for us?" asks U.A. organizer Macdonald. "Sure it does. But Joe is creating a great chance."

Privately, other senior U.A. organizers are even more dependent on the possibility they may miss a unique opportunity. Using Reformer and Tories under one banner had once been unthinkable, given the visceral dislike that existed between Manning and former Tory leader John Charest. When Charest quit to lead the Quebec Liberal party, many conservatives brightened overnight, believing one hurdle to a merger had fallen. But they never counted on Clark—who shares Clark's passionate dislike for Manning's politics—making a comeback. "If I had thought Joe Clark would

backstreet singer. Known to those duped to sing innocent songs mocking the Social Credit government of Manning's father and inspired by John Diefenbaker's future power, Clark says he was already a leery of Preston Manning's crowd. "I wasn't at ease with what seemed like their insipid social engineering," he says. "Some of the people around Preston thought they knew better than the rest of us about how to live our lives."

But the two men would find their paths continually crossing. In the late 1980s, with Social Credit in tatters and a young Leighton reuniting the almost abandoned provincial Conservatives, Manning and Clark (who was then working on an assistant to Leighton) met to discuss whether merging the two provincial parties was possible. "It was a case of the young guys thinking there must be a better way of doing that," Manning recalled last week. "We put together this plan to put things together, but there was a lot of skepticism on the part of the elders of both parties." As Manning tells the story, he says the political differences between him and Clark were a matter of style as well as substance: he was the policy wonk, even then, while "Joe was all organization—how it would work and what colours you'd have."

But Manning insists that forces larger than either man propelled them towards different versions of national politics. "We got into federal politics at a time after the collapse of Diefenbaker, when people who had strong regional roots and expressed them were not particularly welcome out East," Manning says. "After Dief's botched it, you had to scrape the mire off your shoes before you'd be accepted in federal circles." Manning, meanwhile, stayed out of elected politics, although when Clark worked through federalism in the early 1990s as an MP, Manning occasionally allowed him advice to take back to federal Tory leader Robert Stanfield.

Speaker says Manning believed Clark was dismissive of his ideas even then. "Preston would say, 'Here's an idea, Joe,' and then as soon as that would leave me, he would say to me, 'Ah, Joe will just forget that stuff as soon as he gets back to Ottawa,'" Speaker recalls. When Clark and Aubrey—later a Mulroney cabinet minister—approached Manning to join as a Tory in the 1992 federal election ("Preston was a smart guy and the riding he had in mind included the Manning horse-strict," explains Clark), the future Reform leader turned them down. "I had no faith in the federal Conservatives," he says.

Clark may have been too concerned with the mechanics of politics for Manning to like him, but he was not averse to the party's skills and a bit of luck, like his stunning capture of the federal Tory leadership. Alberta delegates that we put him there—most Albertans chose to stick with provincial son Jack Horner, whose support was eroded from the same rural populist base that later became the early backbone of Reform. To the Horner crowd, Clark's appeal to Red Tories made him essentially a conservative. In the 1980 Tory leadership race, most Alberta Tories were again against Clark, hoping to push Brian Mulroney over the top.

By this time, Manning was out of active politics, running a consulting company with his father. "I needed to quite rely on dad rather than getting involved in one of the traditional parties. It was certain the West would provide another moment with even more energy and potential than all of us predecessors," he says. By the mid-1980s, as the black of the Mulroney Tory victory began to wear badly in the West with such pro-Quebec initiatives as the Meech Lake accord, Manning sensed his moment and went to found Reform in 1987. "His early supporters were radicals, people like Marshall Anglo-



## Clark and Manning have held different political visions since university

*Clark, seen by many as the best chance for dragging Reformers and Conservatives together*

phers who had fled Quebec and had a counter's energy for the cause," says Jim Hawkins, a longtime Clark friend and former Calgary MP. Hawkins remains bitter at what he says was Manning's use of anti-Quebec emotions to upstage Tories to his new party.

But even if Manning himself tried to curb the worst anti-Ottawa, anti-Quebec excesses, in his view of "The West wants in" took hold. Brian Tobin began making pilgrimages to Ottawa, wearing cabinet members like Clark and a few Alberta MPs. Manning's growing popularity. They were told to hush out. Clark now acknowledges that "we assumed we could deal with that western anger with facts, figures and arguments. But it wasn't about that. Reformers didn't like us. They were persuaded that we were the best administering to the West." And, he adds, "I know we were in more serious trouble than my colleagues did. But it wasn't in a position to do much about it."

The first head-on test of this division came in the 1988 election when Manning was against Clark in his Yellowknife riding. "We got to take on the person that everyone was at ease with in Canada," the Reform leader told Speaker on the eve of the election. "You will never make a new Canada and I've got to expose that side of him." Clark remembers the campaign for the word "people were polite to me but expressed disappointment in our government." He still won Yellowknife by 6,000 votes, telling Manning on the phone when it was over that they should get together soon for a social chat.

They never did. Any remaining cordiality between the two evaporated with the 1988 national referendum on the Charlottetown constitutional accord, which had been rebuffed together under Clark's stewardship and offered a temporary recognition of Quebec's distinctness while going part way to assuaging westerners' desire for Senate reform. After hesitating on whether to support the deal, Manning then launched a stinging attack on Charlottetown, denouncing it as the "Mulroney deal." Given Mulroney's enormous unpopularity at the time, Tories interpreted that characterization as nothing less than an incendiary attack. "It was a very dishonest campaign," says Clark. "The final denunciation to me that—now how do I say this diplomatically—"

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## Asleep at the wheel

Preston's reputation as a man of principle was overrated."

The political conflicts in Alberta ran beyond Clark and Manning, of course. Lougheer's endorsement of Clark's stimulus at a national caucus meeting in Calgary was all the more significant, says one friend of both men, "because Peter doesn't even like Joe." But Clark was Lougheer's grating nemesis last spring when, over a meal at Calgary's Palomar Hotel, he outlined his willingness to sign his way through the backdoors of Canadian politics one more time to try to save the Tory party.

Many of those trying to see their way past the Manning-Clark logjam keep coming back to Klein, who has agreed to address the U.A. convention on opening night. For some, he is the perfect leader to bridge the two sides (though Lougheer is not among them), uneasy with him as he sees as Klein's dynamic obsession with fiscal prudence. Klein runs a government made up of equal parts Reform and Tory, and he is expected to tell the delegates he is losing ground their dream can be realized.

That should provoke a big standing ovation at the convention, but whether Klein has the personal fire to enter federal politics remains a question even his closest friends can't answer. "He has said 'no' so because there is nothing to lead," explains Macdonald, a friend of Klein. "And so even going to pressure Ralph into doing something if he doesn't see the fit in it." Klein's friends say he likes Clark, though the premier's bad backside means he is not likely to associate with either Clark or Manning. "Ralph doesn't like Preston," says Macdonald. They, who know both men well and say they have reached an accommodation to avoid making trouble for one another. "What Preston has accomplished is truly historic, but Ralph is the undisputed King of Alberta."

But the danger for those cornered allies who want someone other than Manning to lead a new alternative party is that they at tempt to push him aside could provide a backlash from his Alberta base. Manning believes he has been identified as an extremist by his enemies, and deserves one more crack at convincing Ottawans where he can be a national leader. Many in the U.A. believe they can succeed if Manning is replaced. "But if people across this United Alternative is just a way to push him out, it'll be a disaster," says Manning and Klein biographer Frank Dobbs. "Preston's people are very loyal. Instead of a broader coalition, you might end up with yet another split." And so any new conservative alignment will have to account for the burden of Alberta's oil, says the spokesman of the province's politics. Being alongside such oil-rich, old-line thinking, Alberta, perhaps, just a little too close for comfort. **A**

The great diversion from loveless Ottawa last week was to play tight agent and come up with creative ways to get Jean Whistler, B.C., to Jordan, in less than 24 hours. The fundamental weakness with Jean Chretien's excuse that he could not have made it to King Hussein's funeral in time—other than the fact it lacked believability—was that it was an open invitation for anyone to ask "what if he had tried of this way in stead?" The PMO said it would have taken 20 hours to drive from Whistler to Vancouver? C'mon. It can be done in an hour and a half, not. Had to travel in Germany, the PMO says? Not a bad guess via Iceland. And why didn't he just jump the British Airways flight from Vancouver? Or hitch a ride with former

The permissions are almost endless, so difficult from the diplomatic gate continued to trouble the Prime Minister long after it might have otherwise disappeared. The original aim of not sending sufficient respect to the funeral was bad enough, the salvage operation advised Chretien made the calculation that either Hussein would die on the weekend while he was skiing, or that a memorial service for world leaders would be held after the funeral, well into the following week. Enough reason, he guessed, to order the Canadian Forces to stand down until his family holiday was over.

The ensuing political and diplomatic fiasco pegged the giddy mood Chretien has enjoyed since the beginning of the year. The opposition is asexual, and he was treated to almost drearily coverage of his emergency press conference as he learned 85 last month. This social union deal gained any trouble even far from away normally cranky protesters scurried out of Ottawa with smiles on their faces and new federal money for health care in their wallets. So the high he felt leaving Ottawa last week may have led to dropping his guard. The premier's meeting had already consumed a day of his vacation, and Javon barely time with his daughter, not cable and misadventures. The only side with them was Bruce Hartley, who accompanies Chretien at all times, the usual RCMP detail, and an extra ski patrolter and

an by Whistler (perhaps to ensure there were no drugs, Kinnear says) tag football games played on skis.

Given around the Prime Minister seems to have gone to sleep as well. The Canadian Embassy in Jordan waited 40 minutes after learning of the King's death to phone Ottawa. Bisher foreign policy adviser Michael Kossin decided to wait until the B.C. dawn to call Whistler, or else Hartley opted to not wake Chretien. The lack of action meant crucial hours were lost—meaning that in Chretien had any intention of cutting his vacation short. The only reason not to wake him, after all, was if he never planned to go that day.

Normally the problem with big state funerals is keeping the number of dignitaries down. But Gov Gen Roméo LeBlond—who

had jumped the gun by issuing official condolences to the Jordanians two days before the King died—seems to have had no enthusiasm for making the Jordanian trip either. Chretien was apparently told Sunday morning that LeBlond was feeling ill. Effects from an industrial drugs he was taking in advance of an East African tour. Perhaps so, although LeBlond's office at first said

only that the Governor General stayed home to "work on spectra" for his African trip. Quency or not, Chretien should have ordered him to stand in, thereby relieving at least the diplomatic strain on the affair. Governors General exist, for these moments it's why we have them, and why they get the best house and nice grounds.

But the low point of Chretien's uneasy scramble to escape from his own misadventure was the sorry sight of Gen. Macmillan Burt trying to take the hit in a laboriously drafted statement, the chief of defence staff apologised for not having a plane sitting as soon as Chretien's eyes flickered open that morning. This scenario would have required the general to abandon Chretien's order to put travel plans on hold. That as absurd. It assumes the top military aide to the Prime Minister should be tinkering through the political and diplomatic implications of every Middle East potentate's death. Do we go? Was he a warrenner or peacekeeper? That's the Prime Minister's job. And he was off duty last week.



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# Back at the helm

After his Newfoundland Liberals returned to power, Brian Tobin was still smiling. That morning, Quebec Premier Lucien Bouchard called to offer his congratulations—and to set up a meeting to lock-staple talks between the two provinces over developing the Lower Churchill Falls hydro power project. A few hours later, still red-eyed from the whitewater 24-hour campaign, Tobin, 44, sat in his office scanning an earnings statement and news release from Inco Ltd. It seemed to contain more good news: a few carefully crafted sentences that suggested the base-metal giant is willing to go back to the negotiating table over the \$4-billion nickel deposit in Wabigoon Bay. Later that day, Tobin has vowed it will never be developed unless Inco lives up to its earlier promise to build a smaller-refinery complex in Newfoundland. "That is certainly a different tone than we've heard in the past from the company," he told *Maclean's*. "We'll see

whether or not there's a basis to resume negotiations over the next month or so."

For a premier just eight hours into a new mandate, that certainly seemed like a promising start. And it may be just the thing to take people's minds off the main question still dogging Tobin after the whirlwind campaign: The timing of the election call—only three years into the Liberals' mandate and with the government well ahead in the polls—left even hard-core party loyalists doubting Tobin's explanation that he needed a new mandate to negotiate with Quebec and Inco over resource development. Their suspicion: the early election would leave little room to jump into the federal Liberal leadership race if Jean Chrétien steps down.

Waters were turbulent enough to cut the Liberals from 36 to 32 seats and put 14 Tories and two New Democrats into the province's House of Assembly—an increase of four and one, respectively, from what was previously held by an independ-



## Brian Tobin leads his Newfoundland Liberals to a solid electoral victory

*The premier dogged by questions about chasing the prime minister's job*

dent. But the Liberals' showing was still a major accomplishment for a government that had to institute harsh budget cuts—and for a premier who, much as he denies it, is still thought to be cycling bigger things. "I don't know whether he can become prime minister," says Stephen Tomlin, a political science professor at Memorial University in St. John's. "But this election proves Tobin is the real thing."

By now, Tobin has answered the federal leadership question so many times it sounds like a well-rehearsed monologue. Jean Chrétien's job is not open. Besides, Tobin contends he is happy simply being premier of Newfoundland and Labrador. "It is the only job that I've applied for—it is the only

job today that I want," he said last week. It is also a job that looks unusually more enticing today than it did in 1995 when Tobin left Ottawa, where he was the high-flying fisheries minister, for a coronation as provincial Gift leader after Clyde Wells stepped down. Three years later, the fisheries collapsed in pumping at near-capacity and huge increases in crab and shrimp catches have pushed the value of fish landings to an all-time high—even if the industry's employment figures are only a fraction of what they were before the cod fishery was shut down in 1992. The upshot: most forecasters predict that in 1998 Newfoundland will top the nation in economic growth for the second straight year.

Most of all, though, he seems to be counting on resource entrepreneurs to give his province real economic life. By making Wabigoon's Bay and Churchill Falls election issues, Tobin fed his own future to the negotiations. Last week, with his electoral majority intact and some potential breaks through leasing in those two areas, that prospect looked like a winner. But anguishes have a habit of talking apart, and Tobin still faces the challenge of delivering to Newfoundlanders what he promised on the campaign trail.

percentage points higher than the national average. In 1997-1998, the province endured a net loss of 13,000 people.

Tobin says he wants to turn Newfoundland into something akin to Ireland—another small, once impoverished island on the edge of a huge, wealthy continent that has used a combination of information technology, tourism and manufacturing to forge one of the great economic miracles of the late 1990s. Running a government too small and financially strapped to directly create jobs, he now keeps the province's economic momentum going by providing entrepreneurs with tax breaks and changing the mind-set of Newfoundlanders so that they "stead on their own two feet and move forward."

Most of all, though, he seems to be counting on resource entrepreneurs to give his province real economic life. By making Wabigoon's Bay and Churchill Falls election issues, Tobin fed his own future to the negotiations. Last week, with his electoral majority intact and some potential breaks through leasing in those two areas, that prospect looked like a winner. But anguishes have a habit of talking apart, and Tobin still faces the challenge of delivering to Newfoundlanders what he promised on the campaign trail.

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## KLEIN CLEARED

Alberta's auditor general reported that Premier Ralph Klein did not exert undue influence in a controversial \$400-million refinancing plan between the Crown-owned Alberta Treasury Branches and the financially troubled West Edmonton Mall in 1994. Klein provided the probe after documents surfaced last summer suggesting the Conservatives pressured ATB officials for a made-in-Alberta deal instead of one proposed by a Toronto company.

## A BULGING B.C. DEFICIT

B.C. Finance Minister Joy MacPhail said her province's deficit for the current fiscal year could go as high as \$500 million, more than five times what has been projected. The concerns due to increased spending in health and fighting forest fires, as well as lower revenues due to an economic slump. The deficit in the next budget, due before April, could be as high as higher.

## SMUGGLING PIPELINE

Police arrested six Chinese nationals trying to steal into the United States by crossing across a railroad bridge between Niagara Falls, Ont., and Niagara Falls, N.Y. Each of the six and they're charged with smuggling, some as much as \$60,000. Similar arrests recently have focused attention on smuggling pipeline that starts in China, goes through Canada and ends in New York City.

## OSBORNE CASE CLOSED

The RCMP closed the case of Helen Betty Osborne. The Aboriginal woman was stabbed more than 20 times in the P.E.I. Mar. in 1991. Only in 1987 was Detective Andrew Johnston convicted of her slaying. Just before his parole in 1996, Johnston told Osborne's family that one of the other adults were present that night did the killing. Police said a new blood-spatter analysis does not support that account and no one else will be charged.

## UNSADDLED

Federal Solicitor General Lawrence MacKay ordered the Federal prison in Mission, B.C., to stop former Saskatchewan cabinet minister Colin Scott from riding his horse while wearing his sentence. That's because of the murder of his wife, JoAnn, in 1983, had had his horse stopped at the minimum-security prison, which also features a golf course.



**MELEE ON THE HILL:** A demonstration by the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty that attracted 200 people on behalf of the homeless ended in a battle with baton-wielding police on Parliament Hill. The row started after protesters justified Progressive Conservative Leader Joe Clark, who wanted to hear their grievances. Organizers demanded that Ottawa set aside money for housing in this week's budget. "We've treated like subhumans," said Mike Grahani, 43, who has lived in shelters for the past three months since his social assistance ran out.

## 'It was the right thing to do'

Alberta Energy Co. president Guy Morgan defended his company's participation in a covert RCMP bombing at one of the gas facilities in northeastern Alberta last October. Authorities have acknowledged that the incident was an effort to kill police suspects, and Morgan said the firm had a moral responsibility to help the RCMP investigate more than 100 acts of vandalism against energy companies over the past two years. "Our company's participation was the right thing to do," Morgan said. "We're Ludwig and Richard Bloszma, known while arrested in January over the oilpatch terrorism and charged with conspiracy and counselling a third person to commit acts of

vandalism, remained in jail after the Alberta Court of Appeal refused their bid to resign. The court said there were no extraordinary circumstances that would give it the jurisdiction to overturn an earlier ruling dropping bail. Ludwig and Bloszma, who live on a religious commune, have been vocal opponents of oil gas production, claiming it results in health hazards. In fact, according to a soon-to-be-published PhD study by Saskatchewan veterinarian Cheryl Walster, there is a link between burning—the practice of burning oil coals gas—and stillbirths in cattle. According to Walster, the stillbirth rate in birds most exposed to flaring is about twice as high as in other birds.

## The trials and tribulations of Mayor Mel

It was not a good week for Toronto Mayor Mel Lastman. Admitted to an emergency ward on Feb. 1 with a racing heart, the mayor described his experience as a nine-hour nightmare and said he had to leave because of a bed shortage. He changed his story after hospital officials overruled him, and described his care as "great." There was a bright spot, a day earlier, Lastman, a legislator, helped launch the city's specialty bar, Toronto's Own. But that night, he accidentally fell during the ceremonial tip-off at a Raptors basketball game.



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Working out at a Toronto gym, men spend more time working out on treadmills, but often don't push—on a little advice—when they stroll.

# MEN'S HEALTH

BY MARK NICHOLS

**A**nish Chrenowski, a 45-year-old Ottawa computer specialist, was diagnosed in a hurry and successful life. Working days for Revenue Canada, he taught computer classes three evenings a week, took care of several small apartment buildings he owns, and tried to find time to spend with his wife, Janet, and their two young children. The health seemed good. "I thought I was strong," says Chrenowski, "and I could handle anything." But he leaned towards a high-fat diet—bacon and eggs, steak and asides were among his favorite foods—and his schedule left little time for exercise. Last week, it all caught up with him. Chrenowski found himself being treated for a heart attack at the Ottawa Hospital. It happened while he was pointing an apartment—Chrenowski left a "squeaking" in his chest and weakness in his hands. He felt better after a few hours, and it was not until two days later—at his wife's insistence—that he saw a physician. Even before

doctors could determine the severity of his attack, one of them told him he was "a lucky dude." Now Chrenowski intends to change his ways—he plans a less hectic pace and a low-impact diet. "I'm going to do whatever the doctor tells me," he says.

Chrenowski's tale is symptomatic of the way men's attitudes can harm their health. Like many males, he avoided doctors' offices and ignored the advice he heard repeatedly about exercise and diet was for others. But experts say that North American notions of masculinity—the macho ideal of men as tough, competitive risk-takers—are a major contributor to men's ailments. "Masculinity is toxic," says Lory Laing, a sociologist at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, "is a risk factor for health."

By many measures, Canadian men are less healthy than women and their lives more precarious. Men are more likely to die in accidents, to take their own lives and to be murdered (and to commit murder). Men smoke more than women—and have significantly higher rates of cancers associated with smoking. Canadian men are more prone than women to alcoholism and drug addiction. They

## Heart disease, prostate cancer, depression, steroid abuse: macho attitudes only make men's health problems worse

have heart attacks at a younger age. And, ultimately, they die in an average more than five years younger—life expectancy for men in Canada is now 75 years, and for women 81 years. Men also tend to know less about health matters than women—and resist going to doctors. "Men are much more resistant to get medical attention," says Ray Thompson, a registered nurse who teaches in the University of British Columbia school of nursing. "They tend to wear until a problem is really advanced."

Over the past decade, a forceful women's movement has brought about numerous conferences on women's health, many new teaching posts and a flow of research money into women's health fields. So far, no parallel focus has emerged on men's health. But pressures are mounting. In a drive that mirrors the successful campaign to screen men for lung cancer research, prostate cancer survivors are demanding a greater effort to stem the rising toll of the second deadliest cancer facing men. At the same time, researchers are examining the significantly higher rates among men of some kinds of cancer, including bladder, kidney and stomach cancer.

And while women suffer from depression more than men, experts are concerned that the rate is large numbers of undiagnosed cases among men—because of their reluctance to see doctors. Moreover, doctors are helping some middle-aged men to overcome apathy, depression and fatigue by giving them testosterone tablets to replace a vital hormone that can dwindle dramatically with advancing years.

That is just one aspect of men's sex problems. While concerns persist that sperm quality may be declining in some countries, including Canada, some men grapple with the troubling effects of erectile dysfunction and premature ejaculation. To counter another self-image problem, too Canadian police surgeons now perform risky and costly penile-lengthening operations. And as thousands of Canadian men work on their body image by pumping iron in gyms across the country, some experts note that many—especially the young—are making their health by using illegal, muscle-building steroids.

It all sounds grim. But what makes it worse, says Ottawa cardiologist Dr. Andreas Wielgosz, is a widespread problem among men in addressing the lifestyle factors that are ruining their health. "A lot of men are eating too many fatty foods," he says, "and they're missing the fresh fruit and vegetables they need. A lot of them don't drink enough water. Men tend to be cavalier about their health, even after being diagnosed with heart disease," says Toronto cardiologist Dr. Peter Lau. "They want to prove that they're ultimately invincible. The male psyche becomes their downfall." On the bright side, however, that leaves open the possibility that better education and prevention efforts could still be the key to reducing heart disease rates—especially in men.

Diet isn't the only problem. Too many men also ignore the advice of doctors and other experts to exercise regularly and keep their body weight under control. An estimated 60 per cent of Canadian men are overweight or obese, compared to about 41 per cent of women. As for exercise, a survey of 1,600 Canadians released last week by Toronto-based Goldenrod Consultants Ltd., showed that men claim to be more active than women—but not much. Although 48 per cent of the men polled said they exercised regularly, compared to 43 per cent of the women, more than half did not. "The typical man who walks here is the only divorced male who was or is a smoker, who is overweight and has a sedentary lifestyle," says Dr. Bruce Lloyd, medical director of a Winnipeg fitness centre. "The weight and exercise you can do something about."

And then there's the male risk-taking drive. "It's without looking at who you are and what you've achieved," says UBC's Thompson. "And for some men, it's a time of crisis—they want to keep their lives by pushing others, so they drink their stress, and go for a trophy bride and a Porsche sports car." In fact, few men get fat, says Art Huter, a Vancouver family physician whose book on the subject, *Midlife Men*, was published in September. Although most men manage the passage through their 40s and early 50s without difficulty, he says, between five and 10 per cent "experience a crisis that can lead to extreme reactions, like running a wild with a divorcee. We think the problem is more common than it is, because we hear about the dramatic cases."

With men facing so many gender-specific health problems, why hasn't a men's health movement emerged? "I think it's old that many men haven't raised the issue," says the University of Alberta's Laing. "But it may well be because of the same male trait that affects so many aspects of men's health—an reluctance to talk about their problems. There is a saying, notes Edward Bartlett, a men's health advocate who teaches at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., that 'men's strength is the strength of silence.' Women's strength is their knowledge of weakness." Only when the traditional male disdain for their physical and emotional well-being breaks down, it seems, will men overcome a formidable barrier to better health.

### DEATH AND GENDER

The top 10 causes of death for men in 1996, with comparative figures for women



### KILLER CANCERS

The top five types of cancer deaths among men in 1998, with comparative figures for women



SOURCE: NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE OF CANADA

WITH JUDITH GAY IN TORONTO

# When the male equipment fails

BY MARK NICHOLS

For years, Dave (not his real name) was plagued by a crushing lack of self-confidence. Family problems in his childhood had left scars. He was chronically overweight. And there was the problem with his penis—Dave was obsessed by the belief that it was too small. "It affected my whole life," he says. "I wouldn't go to a school that had a pool. I was afraid of meeting people, and I didn't have sex with anyone till I was 34 because I was so worried about my penis." Then in the summer of 1994, Dave's life was transformed when Toronto plastic surgeon Robert Stubbs performed a delicate and risky procedure that added just over an inch to the length of his penis. Enhancement came at a considerable cost, besides paying more than \$5,000 out of his own pocket (no provincial health plans cover penis lengthening). Dave had to tape 14 centimeters of extra skin against his penis until, as a result, suffered from urinary incontinence. But having a longer penis made it all worthwhile, says Dave, 47, a salesman in southwestern Ontario. "My confidence is way up," he says. "I feel like a man."

For obvious reasons, penis extension is not for every man who has doubts about his endowment. But Stubbs, like a man-looking operator, knows what there is something that makes deeply to assist males. All kinds of things can go wrong with the male reproductive equipment. Close to one in 100 Canadian men may seek assistance—either drugs or surgery—for Peyronie's disease, an unpleasant scarring of the penis interior that can bend the organ in two and make intercourse painful, says Stubbs. Some men live so badly about having lost their virility to neuroendocrine disorders that they are taking extraordinary efforts to re-create one. Others suffer from the frustration of premature ejaculation or impotence. And there are concerns that environmental pollutants may be depriving sperm quality. "Our feelings," says Dr. North Davis, a Toronto urologist, "is that there are more infertile men out there. And infertility, he adds, can be a source of enormous distress for men—some feel just like you stop when they can't father children."

Among the troubling issues in the world of men's reproductive zones

• **Reversible dysfunction:** An estimated three

million Canadians suffer from the failure to have adequate erections or, in severe cases, any erections at all. Rarely discussed in public a generation ago, ED is a hot topic today, thanks to Viagra—the highly effective primary pill first sent on sale in the United States last March and has since been approved in 50 countries. But not in Canada. In a review process that has so far taken more than 14 months, Viagra is still being studied by Ottawa's Health Protection Branch. Now, officials say it could be available in Canada this spring—if all goes well. "I think we are getting close to a final decision, if no other new developments occur," says Dr. Andre Marie Laroche, a Health Canada medical officer.

Currently under scrutiny are reports of more than 270 Viagra-related deaths around the world. Many physicians note that some fatalities involved men with heart conditions who ignored warnings against using ultra-fast-acting drugs with Viagra. "Considering that the vast majority of men who use Viagra are over 65," says Dr. Rosemary Besson, a Vancouver physician specializing in sexual issues, "the number of deaths is a lot lower than I would have expected." Dr. Michael Stupanski, a Winnipeg family physician, deplores Ottawa's delay. "This is a quality of life issue for a lot of men," he says. "And I don't think Ottawa has a valid reason for holding back."

• **Preventive checkups:** Affecting perhaps one in 10 men at some point in their lives, this condition can be another source of acute sexual distress. The problem is often considered to be psychological in origin, and experts say the widely accepted idea that patients' organs ought to be cauterized can exacerbate male "performance anxiety." Treatments include cauterization of penile tissue and, in recent years, the use of Peyronie's drugs, which can also delay erections and, unfortunately, reduce sexual drive. Talker's sex also helps, says Dr. Jeremy Hinton, a Kingston, Ont., urologist. "Because people often have no points of reference about sexual problems—they watch porn movies and see men who can make love for hours." Explaining that the average length of intercourse is "minutes rather



## Modern medicine may have the solution if the penis is bent, limp or otherwise falls short of the mark

Pitzgibick, Michelangelo's David (left) trying to turn down some men's requests for large enlargement "because they may not be able to deliver"

than hours," says Hinton, "can help to dispel the emotional overlay and confusion."

• **Fertility:** Since sperm first sounded in the early 1960s over an apparent worldwide decline in sperm counts, a different concern has developed: anacardiac sperm. Counts appear to be falling in parts of France and Scotland, recent studies show, but American researchers have found slight increases in some regions of the United States. In Canada, an analysis of data from 11 fertility clinics published in July concluded that there had been a 4.3-per-cent decline in sperm counts between 1984 and 1996 to about 10 million per milliliter of semen (the 1980s level: 50 million/mL).

Canadian experts regard anywhere from 20 million/mL to 300 million/mL as normal. But that does not necessarily mean Canadian sperm

counts generally are slumping, noted the study's authors at Health Canada and McMaster University in Hamilton, because people who go to fertility clinics are not typical of the population. There are no reliable statistics on male infertility in Canada. "We're just seeing a lot of men with problems," says Toronto's Jurek. But at least some of that, he notes in deference to many Canadian couples having children later in life, when sperm counts naturally decline. There may be other causes, however. Bernard Robaire, a pharmacology professor at Montreal's McGill University and an authority on fertility issues, thinks further research may show that industrial chemicals are affecting male fertility on a local basis. "As for there being a global problem," he adds, "I just don't believe it."

• **Circumcision:** For some men, lacking a foreskin is a huge emotional and physical issue. When Wayne Hampton was four days old, a Chatham, Ont., doctor performed a minor surgical procedure that was common at the time—said to date during Wayne's lifetime. Now, like a small but growing number of other circumcised men, Hampton, 46, has a "re-stored" foreskin, achieved by using skin stored up for several years to stretch the remaining skin over the end of his penis. Like other members of the foreskin restoration movement, Hampton, a computer programmer in California's Silicon Valley, says he

was driven by the feelings of "violation and anger" over his infant circumcision.

Such emotions have been affirmed by the Backpage newspaper's pioneering studies into the foreskin's anatomy. "Circumcision," says Dr. John Taylor, a retired Winnipeg pathologist and a foreskin expert, "removes some of the most specialized and sensitive tissue in the human body. Men have been told for years that the foreskin is just a useless flap of skin. But it is far more than that."

Once a widespread practice in some industrialized countries, adult circumcision is declining outside of Jewish and Muslim communities. In Canada, fewer than one-quarter of male infants are currently being circumcised—compared with an estimated 80 per cent a generation ago. Meanwhile, officials at the San Francisco-based lobby group the National Organization of Restoring Men claim that more than 16,000 Americans are reversing their foreskins. The North American Society for Circumcision Restoration groups exist in several Canadian cities, with about a dozen men attending meetings of NORAM's Toronto chapter. And although a "re-stored" foreskin lacks the sensitivity of the original, Hampton says he is

delighted with his skin. He is capable of a smoother "gliding motion" during intercourse, says Hampton, "and my wife likes it, too."

• **Penis extension:** Working at an office in Toronto's upscale Yorkville district, Stubbs has made the penis of about 450 men an average of 1 1/2 inches longer since 1993. The operation exposes penile tissue that has normally hidden by tissue at the base of the penis. "To increasing the length of the visible penis," he notes, "and of the usable penis," Stubbs says that because there is a small risk of impaired sensation and even loss of the penis, he usually tries to talk patients out of lengthening, particularly men whose organs are already normal in size.

When he begins, Stubbs uses the only certified plastic surgeon in North America who lengthened penises. Now, he says, hundreds of American physicians and two more in Canada are performing similar procedures. Stubbs trained Vancouver plastic surgeon Don Fitzpatrick, who estimates he has lengthened about 60 penises since 1994. Fitzpatrick says he sometimes warns men down for the operation, "because they want to use that I can deliver."

Why does he perform penis extension? Because, he says, a doctor can feel better about them too—and about a part of their body that is increasingly important to the male ego.

MARK NICHOLS

# Coming to grips with depression

Men are often unwilling to seek help when the black moods strike

BY CELIA MILNE

**D**ick Smith was 62 when the black days of depression came to bear his agon. His work as a radio and television broadcaster was "increasingly, unbearably" stressful. It was the spring of 1996, and Smith was on vacation, staying in a house with his wife, Marilyn. "I had always wanted to see

COVER

Venice, that magic wonder-land," he says. "So there we were and I was seeing 'Who came to Sicily?' That's when I knew something was wrong." Smith went to his 62-year-old wife, who presented sleeping pills. That wasn't the solution. Smith, then living in Toronto, remembers saying to himself that autumn: "Look, you've got a good job, you've been married over 40 years, you have three wonderful daughters, a lovely place in Muskoka, opportunities to travel. You have an enviable lifestyle. Dick, so why do you wake up every morning trying to figure out how to kill yourself?" By Christmas his depression, still undiagnosed, had chased him into a deep hole. "It was like a score from a bad opera," he now recalls. "Here I was with

a kitchen knife at my wrist, trying to get enough courage to make the cut. I broke down completely."

Smith is unfortunately typical of many men with depression who do not permit in putting the help they need, and end up in a crisis. There are 38 to 40 percent higher incidence of reported depression among women than men, according to Dr. Edgardo Perez, chief of medical staff at the Rotman Health Centre, a private addiction and psychiatric services facility in Guelph. But specialists such as Dr. Stan Kutcher, head of psychiatry at Dalhousie University in Halifax, say the condition can be particularly worrisome to men because of their unwillingness to reach out for help. One in 10 men will have a major depressive episode requiring treatment, according to the anti-help organization the Mood Disorders Association of Ontario and Toronto, but only one in 20 of those actually get the help they need. And with the numbers rising, the prognosis is unsettling. Kutcher calls World Health Organization forecasts that by the year 2020, "depression will be the most prevalent disease we have on the world."

Suicidal thoughts are never to be taken

lightly, but that is especially so among men. "When men try to kill themselves, chances are higher than with women that they will succeed," says Perez. In 1996, according to Statistics Canada, 2,070 men and 585 women committed suicide. Figures from the Centre Institute of Psychiatry at Toronto show that depression and suicide are strongly linked: fully 80 per cent of suicides are carried out by people who have depressive illness.

Luckily for Smith, he realized, even as he held a knife to his artery, that he was sick and needed help. His decision to call a doctor was a turning point. The beginning of a slow climb out of the black hole. He has been taking the antidepressant for three years, but now sometimes if he can get along without it. "I'll need it, I'll go back on it," he says, "but I'm hoping to get rid of it."

Many experts point to persistent societal stereotypes to explain the reluctance of men to admit they are depressed. "Boys are raised to be workers, to achieve and be successful," says Dr. Jerry Arthur-Wood, a registered clinical counsellor and program director at the B.C. Men's Resource Centre in Vancouver. "Anything short of that is considered shameful." The centre receives about 500 calls a year from troubled men, whom he refers as

victims of overly high expectations from society—what he calls the "sturdy oak" syndrome. "Too many men are their own worst enemies," says Arthur-Wood. "They avoid anything that is perceived as feminine, such as admitting mental discomfort."

Arthur-Wood's work gives him a firsthand view of the pressures on men in the '90s. "I see mental health problems stemming from failures of various sorts," he says, "as work, in relationships and from the fear of aging." "Innocence is a major contributor to the problem he faces." It can be very devastating for men not to get across to their children, he says. "I see people start to drink, take drugs and commit suicide." While it is often said that depression is much more common among women than men, Arthur Wood suspects many men's cases simply go unreported. "I think the figures would be much closer if men came forward," he says. "They may be depressed but they don't know it's hidden by the use of alcohol to numb themselves to pain or failure or shame."

Another way many men mask their depression, says Henswood's Perez, is to work obsessively. "Men tend to cover up by becoming really obsessive about their work." Thanks to ubiquitous cell phones, laptop computers and e-mail, men have found a new hiding place: it's useful to be "Men use the computer to substitute for what's missing in their lives," says Perez. "The computer provides pseudo-therapy but in the long run it is worse. They are isolated and don't have a chance to be questioned about whether they are doing OK. They're beginning to see more of that at work."

Despite a widespread tendency to dismiss depression as a simple lack of willpower, it is in fact a disease caused by a chemical imbalance in the brain. And it tends to run in families. According to Perez, having a parent who suffered from it doubles a person's chances of becoming depressed—having both parents trying the odds. He calculates that six per cent of the population suffers from major depression at any given time, and 40 per cent of the known victims are male. Once depression has reared its head, the risk of recurrence is high—50 per cent after one episode, 70 per cent after two and 80 per cent after three.

The numbers of cases are rising, perhaps because depression is coming out of the closet. In 1996, mental problems including depression represented about 11 per cent of Michael Lyle of Canada's long-term disability claims. Now says Sue Mack, director of the ability services at the firm's local office in Waterloo, Ont., they "take up about a quarter." And although most mental claimants are women, the men's portion is growing. In 1996, 29 per cent of claimants were men; in 1997, that number rose to 34 per cent and last year it reached 36 per cent. But Dalhousie's Kutcher is skeptical of people who cite premenstrual levels of stress in the modern world as the cause of or increasing incidence

of depression. "Every generation thinks it's special," he says. "But look at people under extreme circumstances of stress like war. The vast majority never get depressed."

For those who do, chances are good that it is treatable. About 70 per cent of outpatients will respond to antidepressants such as selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors or SSRIs (Prozac, Zoloft and Parnate), tricyclic antidepressants or TCAs (Diprimate and Elavil), and monoamine oxidase inhibitors or MAOIs (Nardil), or a combination of medications, says Perez. Those drugs often take three weeks or more to effectively alter the brain chemistry. Newer antidepressants, such as Serenice, produce fewer of the sexual problems and other side-effects that many men may fear. And a natural medication, St. John's Wort, says Perez, is "up to 50 per cent" effective for mild to moderate depression. As well, psychotherapy counselling can help deal with underlying issues such as marital, family, occupational and social issues.

In severe, urgent cases of depression, a newer version of the old "black treatment" of mood disorders: electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) is used. The procedure is performed at the Rotman Psychiatric Hospital in Toronto, and electroconvulsive therapy—which uses a machine to send electric currents through the brain—is "the single most powerful treatment for de-



Smith is sharing a clinic for men after hearing female menopausal patients talk about their husbands' symptoms

pression." Recent studies have found ECT to be 65 to 75 per cent effective. But there is a down side—its side-effects may include headaches, muscle pain and memory loss.

As for Dick Smith, he is now somewhat, though daily commitments on Toronto radio station CHOI. He lives with his wife, Marilyn, in Brimley, in Ontario's cottage country. Smith says he talks openly about his ordeal because he hopes it will encourage other men to seek help. "All I'm," he says, "is a chemical imbalance in the brain. There is no shame in it whatsoever."

## PUTTING THE MEN IN MENOPAUSE

**S**even months ago, Abraham Van Eunen found he was becoming the most thing in the world he wanted to be: a grumpy old man. Over the past decade, he had become steadily fatter and milder. These days, the 65-year-old security guard in Brampton, B.C., feels alert, confident and so sociable he starts conversations with strangers. "I just cheered right up," he says with a chuckle. "I feel like I have a new life." That life began in September, two months after Van Eunen joined a local group to study androgen, or testosterone pills, at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver. But he volunteered for the study, and no idea that what he was going through had a name.

It is andropause, or male menopause, a testosterone deficiency that may affect between 15 and 20 per cent of men between the ages of 45 and 65. And Van Eunen is typical of his gender in his lack of knowledge of the condition. "Much of the time," says Dr. Norman

Bennett, director of a male medicine clinic at the Broadway Medical Centre in Ottawa, "men don't realize there is such a thing as andropause." A gynecologist who became a member of the Order of Canada for his work in women's reproductive health, Bennett founded his clinic 10 years ago after hearing female menopausal patients talk about their husbands' "senior symptoms"—bizarre, moodiness, hot flashes. "The prime cause of andropause applies to be the lowering levels of the hormone testosterone in men as they age. Male menopausal symptoms tend to be much more subtle and gradual than women's, which commonly associated with neck aches, eyeaches, andropause is just as likely to affect men's emotions. Most men who seek help are concerned about the physical symptoms," says Dr. Jerome Bell, medical director of the Health Institute for Men in Toronto. But once they see a specialist, underlying emotional and physical issues may become apparent—and usually treatable with counselling and androgens.

SUSAN OH

# Confronting the menace

BY D'ARCY JENISH

**F**red Norrie's words bring a smile to the young woman's face. "I got all winter, curl all winter and bowl twice a week," says the 75-year-old former purchasing manager for a Montreal-based computer manufacturer. "What more could I do?" He and the woman, a nurse in her early 30s, spoke during a break in a recent meeting of a prostate cancer support group in the Toronto suburb of Rexdale. She was there for the first time—her 69-year-old father had just been diagnosed with the disease, which kills about 4,380 Canadian men a year, second among cancers only to lung cancer's toll of 10,600 annually. Norrie, who had his prostate removed in 1980, has been to dozens of meetings and has become prominent at talking to newcomers. But he hasn't forgotten the horror of being diagnosed. "I went home," he says, "and my wife said, 'How did it go?' I said, 'I've got prostate cancer,' and I sat at the kitchen table and cried."

That shock is becoming commonplace for men in their late 50s and older. According to the Toronto-based Canadian Cancer Society, more than 16,100 men were diagnosed with prostate cancer last year, up 25 per cent from five years earlier. And although it is not the leading killer, cancer of the prostate—a virtually undetectable clinical condition that produces a hard nodule to carry secretions—is now the most common form of cancer among men. Medical experts say it will only become more prevalent as the population ages because the disease primarily affects older men. "Once you hit 50, you're in the high-risk group," says Paul Reintz, director of the prostate research laboratory at Vancouver General Hospital. "There's going to be a tremendous number of men crossing that age barrier in the next few years."

Increasingly, men going through treatment and those who have survived are turning to each other for support. Over the past five years, 60 prostate cancer groups have



According to them, they're not putting enough money into a disease that may kill us."

## Prostate cancer, the most common form among men, is spawning a network of support groups

sprung up across the country. Most meet monthly and give men a forum for sharing experiences, coping with fears and discussing what are frequently life-altering treatments. Prostate tumours, which are fed by male sex hormones, can be surgically removed or bombarded with radiation if detected early. Tumours that have spread to surrounding tissue can be treated only with drugs that suppress the hormones. In each case, impotence is a common side effect. Many doctors recommend routine checkups for the disease, including the somewhat controversial PSA (prostate-specific antigen) tests, which

measure the levels of factors that a diseased prostate releases into the blood stream to stimulate the immune system.

The support group movement is also producing prostate activists—survivors who are becoming more organized and vocal. Their objective: more government spending on research. Greg Armstrong, 63, a lecturer in kinesiology at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C., who was diagnosed in 1986 and opted to have his prostate removed, argues that research funding for the disease should be on the level of that for breast cancer, which is diagnosed in about

10,000 women, and leukaemia 5,300, each year. Between 1990 and 1998, Health Canada and various private agencies, such as the cancer society, put \$28 million into breast research. Last June, Health Minister Allan Rock promised another \$45 million over a five-year period. By comparison, federal funds for prostate research over the past five years totalled \$2.8 million. Last March, the Toronto-based National Cancer Institute presented another \$2.8 billion over three years. "There's a major asymmetry here," says Armstrong. "They're not putting enough money into a disease that may kill me."

Last November, Wally Seeley and two other representatives of the Canadian Prostate Cancer Network, a coalition of support groups, put their case to federal deputy health minister David Dodge, so far to no avail. "With sufficient money, we can probably beat this disease," says Seeley, 44, retired a businessman from Lakeland, Ont., 125 km northwest of Toronto. "And we've got government sitting on its hands."

The federal health department, as well as funding agencies such as the Ottawa-based Medical Research Council, have traditionally avoided putting money into the study of specific types of cancer. Instead, they have supported basic scientific research on the grounds that any breakthroughs could be applied to all forms of the disease. But scientists like Norrie say findings from basic research are rarely applicable to prostate cancer because it has unique characteristics—the tumours are generally slow growing and their development is dependent upon male sex hormones. "That's why we haven't had any major advances in its treatment for 50 years," he says. "The only way to deal with prostate cancer is to focus on the disease itself."

The biggest development in recent years, medical experts say, has been the more effective detection resulting from the use of PSA testing about the early 1990s. The test is done after a

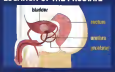
physician examines the rectum with a finger detecting a bulging or nodules on the prostate indicating the presence of a tumour. A simple blood test measures the levels of antigens that a tumour's blood releases to alert the body's immune system. "The PSA test is the single best tumour detector in all of cancer," says Dr. Martin Gleason, a urologist at Vancouver General Hospital and a leading prostate researcher. "There is evidence to show that when the cancer is detected early, treatment can be very effective."

Many physicians now support widespread use of PSA testing. Some, like Dr. Laurence Klotz, a urologic surgeon at Toronto's Sunnybrook Regional Cancer Centre, recommend that men in their 40s be tested if there is a family history of the disease. Otherwise, no examinations should be done every two years between the ages of 50 and 70. Beyond that, there is much less urgency because many men developing prostate cancer at that age are likely to die of other causes before the slow-growing tumour becomes lethal.

But some physicians question the value of widespread and regular screening. For one thing, patients can be needlessly alarmed because cancer is present in only one of three cases of elevated PSA levels. That is because the prostate also releases antigens as a result of a viral infection or hardening that occurs with aging. Dr. Peter Venters, a medical oncologist at the Queen's Cancer Institute in Edmonton, points to a more basic problem with the tests. There is no conclusive evidence, he says, that early detection and treatment leads to a longer or more satisfying life. Many men live with the disease for years without serious consequences because the tumour grows so slowly and does not always spread to surrounding tissue, says Norrie. Yet most patients who are diagnosed will choose to be treated and accept the side-effects.

Doctors admit that the debate over the effectiveness of early detection will not be resolved quickly. But as prostate support groups across the country, there are survivors who make up their minds long ago. "I was just bloody lucky it was detected early," says Armstrong, who was diagnosed after experiencing mild but unrelieved pain in the pelvic area. And there is one other thing that makes the survivors agree on the value of the support groups. "There's no substitute talking to other men," adds Armstrong. "It's not uncommon for new guys to say, 'Oh, God, that has been great. I've signed it [told to you guys.]'"

### LOCATION OF THE PROSTATE



## WHY MEN ARE VULNERABLE

**T**he search for the causes of cancer leads many researchers to the mysterious, microscopic world of damaged molecules and defective genes. But Richard Gallagher, director of cancer control research programs with the Vancouver-based B.C. Cancer Agency, looks at a bigger picture—one of environment and behavior. Gallagher is an epidemiologist who has spent the past 20 years trying to determine why some cancers occur more frequently in certain types of people. And he has a simple explanation for one of the most basic facts about the disease: many cancers occur far more frequently in men than women. Most of the gender differences, he concludes, are due largely to environmental and behavioural factors—cancerogens in the workplace, smoking and alcohol use, among others. "Historically, men have been more involved in industrial occupations, they smoked more and drank more," he notes.

The Canadian Cancer Society reported about 8,200 new cases of lung cancer among men last year, and almost 2½ times as many—12,200—among men. Men are also at the higher end of disfigurement, in some cases much larger, in rates of cancers of the bladder, kidney, mouth, stomach, esophagus and rectum. Studies have uncovered elevated levels of lung cancer in firefighters, welders and metal industry workers, Gallagher says, and researchers attribute it to the workers' prolonged exposure to fumes containing complex carbon compounds. But other data baffles the experts—including an Ontario study showing a nearly 60 per cent increase in the rate of bladder cancer among 15- to 29-year-olds over the past three decades.

D.A.

# Bad attitudes that kill

**A** 197, David Ennosel was overweight, working long hours and knew that his cholesterol level was high. He was a man who would get started walking uphill, but he did not fully understand that he was a prime candidate for heart disease until he went into hospital for a heart attack last summer in 1996. There, he learned that his cholesterol level was nearly twice the ideal for his age. "It scared the crap out of me," he says, but for eight months, he put off doing what was necessary, contacting himself that the cholesterol-lowering drugs he was taking would do the trick. Finally, he put aside the pills and reached for his gym gear. "I made a lifestyle change and started exercising six days a week," he says. He also says more attention has been paid. The result: 25 lb. lost and a cholesterol level back close to the ideal. If only all men responded as well.



Like with a patient having a coronary block-flow risk, many male patients are in denial.

## Men can be their heart's worst enemy

Ennosel, revisiting the basic steps required to improve their health. "These are the things your mother tells you to do all the time," says Lay. "Many of my male patients are in denial until something catastrophic happens."

Lack of finding time stands in the way of better preventive strategies. Doctors have long recommended the expensive of cardiac rehabilitation programs to include high-risk candidates before symptoms develop. But that is unlikely to happen soon because existing facilities, available only to patients who have already suffered cardiac incidents, can accommodate just 30 per cent of that demand.

As the number of deaths from heart disease rises in a growing and aging population, the death rate is declining in proportion to those from other causes, primarily cancer. That is mainly because of advances in treatments such as drugs to lower blood cholesterol levels. Living among patients looking for the impossible, a "miracle bullet" drug or procedure that would eliminate the need for lifestyle changes. "Men especially are focused with new technology," he says. "The advice to stop smoking and lower cholesterol sounds so old."

That attitude, specialists say, helps perpetuate a fundamental problem with the Canadian health-care system—for more

attention and funds are devoted to treatment than to prevention. "We have a reactive system," says Calgary cardiologist Dr. Jon Stans, chairman of the National Guidelines Committee for Cardiac Rehabilitation. "We have facilities for prevention, but care is only funded for people who already have the disease."

The limitation for doctors, Stans says, is that they can identify future heart disease patients, but they are not paid to give preventive care. "Unfortunately, the system does not financially reward doctors for giving preventive counselling," says Dr. Bruce Boyd, medical director of the Stinson Risk-Fit Centre in Winnipeg, which provides rehabilitative and preventive programs. But change is under way. All major treatment centres across Canada, says Lay, are starting prevention clinics for cardiovascular disease. "It's a reasonable trend," says Boyd. "It is going to cost the health-care system less and help people to live longer and better lives."

One current avenue of research—using antibodies to treat heart disease—could have a profound effect on both treatment and prevention. The first year of an antibodies trial has just been completed at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, part of an international study that will monitor heart patients' progress for the next 2 to 3 years. Another half-million research trials around the world will try to determine the usefulness of treating heart disease with antibodies.

At the crux of the search is the possibility of finding a vaccine against heart disease—a cost-effective prevention that is at least five years away. Dr. Bill Pang, director of infectious diseases at St. Michael's, cautions that vaccines will never be the entire solution. Other major factors of a preventive strategy include getting people to stop smoking and convincing them—especially the men—to follow the good advice they have heard all their lives.

SUSAN OBI

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Highest in his home gym: Calvin Klein. Subito (left) clearing cholesterol, losing 25 lb. and keeping an eye on the waist



# The lure of the body image

In their quest for the beefcake look, some men try extreme measures

**T**he year Ralph Hightman of Picton, N.S., turned 30, he decided to lose some weight. At five-foot-eight, pushing 200 lb., Hightman says when he stood in front of the mirror, he knew something wasn't working. He joined the "YMCA in the nearby town of New Glasgow, started taking nightly walks and started lifting, cutting out the late-night pizzas and pizza with spicy beef, sausage and sauce. Now, at 34, Hightman boasts around the 185-lb

a physically fit person," says Hightman. "Whether we want to admit it or not, this image is what we want to look like."

The idealized male body image on display is beefy and muscular, as epitomized in the Calvin Klein underwear advertisements showing the bucking peon and rippling abs of Antonio Sabato Jr. And like Hightman, hundreds of thousands of men in

Canada are flocking to gyms and health clubs in the quest to look buffed and toned.

There are signs, however, that some men are taking the image to extremes. Statistics on steroid use show an alarming number of male teenagers across the country are using the substance simply to pump up muscle. Men are increasingly being diagnosed with eating disorders. And plastic surgeons report a general increase in men seeking their services to improve their appearance. "This is an early warning," said New York City doctor Michael L. Sagarino, whose book *Life*

Outside chronicles the history of body image among homosexual men. "This 'cult of muscularity' isn't just a gay culture; it's so many like to believe, it envelops the entire culture. It is an obsessive devotion to an ideal."

Although worldwide, the body is hardly new, the emphasis on the beefcake look has evolved sharply in North America over the past 100 years. Both Sagarino and Brian Pronger, a philosopher in the faculty of physical education at the University of Toronto, say that many men, straight and gay, adopted a more masculine appearance after the Occam Wide trials in the 1890s associated with eugenics behavior with, he occasionally in the popular mind. Pronger and Sagarino also say that women's softness and, later, the modern feminist movement caused men to cover a larger appearance as a means of defending their status. "As women take up more space in traditionally masculine places," says Pronger, "some men feel compelled to take up more in order to maintain their position."

It takes a lot of sweating and spending to achieve a hard-body look. According to a 1997 report published by the Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute, men spend more than twice as much as women on all equipment related to fitness, including clothing, exercise equipment, membership fees and instruction. And Whitchard, who works for one of the largest distributors of creatine, a controversial supplement that increases the energy capacity in muscles, says sales have increased 130 per cent since 1991.

Calvin Klein and other underwear manufacturers are not alone in using men with buffed bodies to sell products. Other advertisers include Coca-Cola, Nike and Marlboro, which has introduced a buffier version of its original "Marlboro Man." As well, magazine stands now offer dozens of titles devoted to health, fitness and muscle, tantalizing readers with images of bodacious lads. "Creat is all in eight weeks." Their pages are adorned with ads featuring big, bulky men selling muscle-building supplements.

One of the sad consequences of the push towards a hyper-muscular image is that it can rarely be obtained without the use of potentially harmful drugs. A 1998 study conducted for the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport concluded that four per cent of males aged 11 to 18—as many as 63,000 young Canadians—used anabolic steroids in 1992 and 1993. In the study, which involved 16,310 high school and elementary students, one in five reported that they knew someone who was taking anabolic steroids. Among the reasons given for their use, nearly half said it was to change their physical appearance. That contrasted starkly with previously held notions that steroids were used mostly to increase athletic performance, says Paul Melia, the centre's director of education. "The reality is for most of these teens, even if they do get on a regimen of weight training, they are not going to look like these picture boys," said Melia. "And maintaining that look is a full-time job."

In a downtown Toronto gym, Mike, a 35-year-old former bodybuilder and weight lifter and a longtime user of anabolic steroids, says he must workout at least five to six days a week to maintain the look he's in the *Beast* d-raps. When he started using steroids 16 years ago, Mike says, he was part of an elite group of men who took them for competitive reasons. "Today it's for the body image," he says. "And these kids today—they add steroids upon steroids, thinking they are going to get a certain look. They take this stuff, get out to night clubs, get drunk and

eat everything together. It's all for image." Mike says just result of working out seriously can be that, no matter how big their muscles get, men start thinking they are still not big enough. It is a phenomenon disturbingly similar to cases of eating disorders among women who believe they are too big, no matter how thin they get. Maintaining a hard body takes not only a regimen of heavy workouts, but also a dedication to eating right and at times during to avoid gaining fat, says Mike. And psychologists across the country say one result of those self-imposed pressures is an increased incidence of eating disorders among men. According to Dr. Howard Singer, a clinical psychologist and director of the eating disorder program at Douglas Hospital in Montreal, surveys have shown that five to 15 per cent of eating disorder sufferers are men. He says most people



From the pages of *Beast* magazine: advertisements by U.S. design houses (above right, below) that image is what we want to look like



with eating disorders have unstable self-esteem. He also says there are increasing socio-cultural pressures on men to connect their self-image in body image. While there are no new national figures, specialists in eating disorders say that bulimia nervosa, characterized by binge eating and vomiting, is on the rise in men. "What you find," says Singer, "are people who diet too much, who couldn't too much, and what you are doing is setting up this pressure of hunger—a constant state of undernourishment that eventually leads to bulimic-type eating patterns."

In addition to steroid use and erratic eating behaviors, John Sepple, secretary treasurer of the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons, says he believes men are increasingly having plastic surgery to alter their body image. Dr. Bill Papatianakis, a plastic surgeon in Montreal, estimates that only 10 per cent of his patients were obese when he opened his practice 13 years ago. Today, it is as high as 15 to 20 per cent. In Halifax, plastic surgeon Dr. Kenneth Wilson says one of the most common surgeries he does for men is liposuction. For Nathan Lippman, a 27-year-old from Montreal who spent \$1,800 in Toronto, Alberta, in 1997 to have liposuction done on his waistline, the surgery has transformed his life. Since he was 16, Lippman was a constant dieter, at times bulimic, and for many years felt in control his weight using diet drugs including Drenorex, ephedrine and liothyron. Today, Lippman says he can walk proudly with his shirt off and with no hint of any fat

from his childhood retainer. "I was a fat kid—I had fat in the wrong places," he says. "The first thing I did was get rid of the fat to the belly, take my shirt off and end up a piece of *Hunger* (Drew I feel like a new man)." According to Pronger, who has been studying the philosophy of physical fitness for five years, a person with a hard, fit body contains it's a status of discipline and a capacity for hard work. "When you see somebody who is over-weight," he says, "when the response is how did they let themselves get like that? The instant prescription, he adds, is that the person doesn't have the discipline to be a productive citizen. One of the solutions, says Pronger, is to teach children to look at body images in the same critical way they are told to consider art and literature—to be able to recognize what has gone on. "If we were using the same physical education, people could learn to have a different reaction to these extreme body images," he says. "They would say, 'Hey, I don't want to be part of this pressure to fall in love with a highly commercialized image.'"

SUSAN MCCLELLAND

# PAYBACK TIME?

## Despite Clinton's Senate acquittal, hard feelings remain

**D**id Clinton have the better part of a year to learn how to get it right, how to say "I'm sorry" and sound like he means it. He flubbed it last August, when he turned a would-be apology for his misbehavior in the White House into a stinging attack on his accusers. He hatched it again in December, when he surrounded himself with cheering supporters on the White House lawn right after the 115th House of Representatives impeached him. Last week, he took another shot at it and decided that short and simple might be best, after all. Two hours after the Senate acquitted him on charges of perjury and obstructing justice, the President strode out of his office, stood alone before a podium in the Rose Garden and said, "I am profoundly sorry for what I said and did to trigger these events." It was, he said, time for "reconciliation and renewal."

It was a instantly low-key response to what came as an anti-Clinton 15 months of political malfeasance. First scandals, then the Watergate-style trial before Richard Nixon's own office in 1974, produced heroes as well as villains. The optics were mixed, the evidences were mixed. The story of the President and the nation may have transfixed Washington, but it left nothing resolvable in its wake. Little wonder, then, that once the Senate had voted as predicted, the survivors of the saga seemed to want to leave the scene as quickly as possible. In public at least, there was no rejoicing among the victors—and not even many recriminations among those who lost the battle. Clinton himself set the tone three days later by letting it be known that he did not even bother to watch the vote on television. His chief of staff placed him with the media while he was engaged in late-evening exercises.

The result had been foreboded for months. But for the strident Senate chamber was still electric when the moment arrived for all 100 members to vote by their yeas and nays on the question, posed according to tradition by Chief Justice William Rehnquist. "Seconded, how say you?" In the response, William Jefferson Clinton, guilty or not guilty? For only the second time in American history, they stood and they spoke—and the result for Clinton was about as good as he could have hoped.

On the last impeachment article, charging him with committing perjury before a grand jury investigating the Monica Lewinsky scandal, 81 Republicans, mostly moderates from both parties sides, joined all 45 Democrats and answered "not guilty." On the second article, accusing the President of obstructing justice, five of those Republicans split with their party—resulting in a 50-50 decision. Not only did the votes fall far short of the two-thirds needed to convict Clinton, but the prosecutors could not muster even a simple majority of the Senate to prosecute him on either charge.

It was a crushing defeat for the Republican congressional appointed by the House as prosecutors, or "managers," of the case against the President, which commenced from his 16 months after his Lewinsky and his attempts to cover it up. The prosecutors' frustration was evident—both at Clinton and at their supposed allies in the Senate. They never had a clear shot at the President, they complained, because the procedure devised by the Senate did not allow them to present their full case against him. Instead of having a proper trial with witnesses and their cross-



ANDREW PHILLIPS  
IN WASHINGTON

ex examining the evidence in a losing battle against Clinton's formidable legal team. "We weren't happy," said their leader, Representative Henry Hyde of Illinois, "because we were outmaneuvered by the rules."

And in fact, the prosecutors found that their fellow Republicans in the Senate recoiled from impeachment as a distasteful task to be dispensed with as quickly as possible. By the time the impeachment trial opened on Jan. 14, it was apparent that even most Senate Republicans were taking their cues from the public's demand to end the sizzle and "move on"—the mantra of the past year. The Senate Republicans showed the aggression of a startled house cat," said a bitter Jack Kingston, a Republican congressman from Georgia. The only thing worse: Even the

### NOW FOR THE SPIN

This trial may be over, but the books and bills have just begun. Linda Tripp, the woman who started it all by taping over telephone tapes of Clinton, is now a prosecutor. Ken Starr, that whole impeachment fiasco, is on a round of TV appearances by the hundreds. He will likely be the appearance, in late February, of Monica Starr, Lewinsky's much-published authorized memoir by Clinton's lawyer Andrew Morrison. Lewinsky is also set to tell her tale to ABC's Barbara Walters. After that will come a flurry of books. Most will be written by journalists, but insiders say presidential friend Vernon Jordan—who tried to say as little as possible during the scandal—is also looking for a publishing deal.



Democrats denouncing a solid front behind their embattled President, he added, was "the weakness of the Senate Republicans."

Those bitter feelings will surely linger, as many conservative Republicans shake their heads in wonder at how a President who has outlived them here and again managed to slip their noose one more time. The split between Republicans in the House and those in the Senate suggests that the party may be riven for months by an extra main debate. Badly wagers can be expected to accuse moderates of abandoning principle, allowing a lawbreaking President to stay in office because his poll numbers remain high. Moderates will reply that the House Republicans became obsessed with impeachment, driving the party to its lowest ebb in public esteem in many years and putting its hold on Congress at risk in next year's elections.

The effort will linger in many other ways, as well. The list of those badly wounded is long—Clinton himself, the Republicans, the in-betweeners, and the media. Ken Starr, whose tandem pursuit of the President turned him into a media figure among many Americans, and a string of other individuals led by Lewinsky, a young woman made notorious by her liaison in the White House.

For the President, acquittal was tempered with the knowledge that he will forever be marked with the brand of impeachment—the first elected president in American history to be so tarnished. There is no doubt (little) support in the Senate against much of last week's conviction. In the meantime, as they prepared to give Clinton his own guilty, Democrats made sure they covered their political flank by putting their disapproval of him on the record. Senator Dianne Feinstein of California voted unsuccessfully to have the Senate pass a censure resolution condemning Clinton's behavior. Republicans blocked that effort, but even as the Senate weighed the President's fate behind closed doors, Democrats prepared their speeches with denunciations of their former leader. The President's conduct, and Senator Robert Byrd of Nevada, was "beyond, indefensible," agreed Barbara Boxer of California. There was more—"shameful," "revolting," "wicked," "astounding," "despicable." And that was just from Clinton's Senate.

With the trial behind him, the decision Clinton must make is how best to repair his reputation and forge a political legacy to weigh in the balance against the stain of impeachment. In promising to seek "reconciliation and renewal," Clinton sent a clear signal that he intends to work with the Republican Congress in order to pass new legislation this year. But his allies sent out other, very different, signals as well. On the eve of the Senate vote, anonymous advisers to the President were quoted by *The New York Times* as saying he was furious at the Republicans who spearheaded the impeachment drive against him and was vowing to bury them politically. In particular, the advisers said, he intended to target the 13 congressmen who acted as prosecutors against him and make sure they lose their seats in 1996, two years after Clinton moved into the White House, said the President was said to consider winning the House back for Democrats next year a key part of ensuring his political legacy (along, of course, with helping Vice-President Al Gore succeed him in the White House). And, the advisers said, Clinton intends to use his formidable law-enforcing ability to finance a Democratic drive targeting his opponents.

Some of the political allies, too, were speaking less of forgiving, and more of getting even. James Carville, the attack-dog campaign consultant who is one of Clinton's closest defenders, defiantly declared that he is not part of what he dismissed as the "forgive-and-forget brigade." A liberal interest group that has outspokenly defied Clinton throughout the impeachment battle, People for the American Way, announced a campaign to raise \$5 million (U.S.) to help defeat conservative Republican congressmen and "end the reckless attacks against Clinton." The group began running a TV ad in selected cities baiting the Republicans over impeachment and threatening to oust them from office in 2000. Republicans accused the President of seeking payback, not peace. "It's deeply troubling," said Trent Lott of Mississippi, the party's leader in the Senate, "that the President views closure of this constitutional process as an opportunity for revenge."

And Starr, the independent counsel who pursued Clinton as relentlessly, may come under new fire himself. As the Senate enters its final deliberations next week, other members of officials let it be known that the justice department had decided to begin an inquiry into Starr's own office. At issue is whether Starr's prosecutors misled the department in January, 1998, when they won permission to investigate the Lewinsky affair but did not fully disclose their contacts with lawyers representing Paula Jones in her sexual harassment

Clinton's choice of reconciliation or revenge





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## WORLD

forward against Clinton. A justice department investigation would set the stage for yet another round of recriminations between Starr and the Clinton administration—containing well after the Senate trial had set in motion.

Publicly at least, White House officials insisted that there was no plan to target Clinton's political enemies. Joe Scarborough, the President's chief spokesman, said he could not think "of a worse, more dumb strategy" than going after opponents simply because they attacked the case against the President. Other White House officials argued that the

of his office, has brought disruption on the presidency, has betrayed his trust as President and has acted in a manner subversive of the rule of law and justice."

Ordinarily, it would seem that their relations would be so strained that it would be impossible to work together. At the most basic level, Clinton's repeated lying about his relationship with Lewinsky casts his trustworthiness into serious question. But both sides find themselves needing to strike deals to show voters that they stand above the impeachment debacle. And Clinton, though publicly shamed, may have more leverage than he would have had if the world had never heard of Monica Lewinsky, Linda Tripp and the rest. In the normal course of events, his power would already be ebbing quickly as his presidency enters the final stage of his second term. Now, however, his job approval ratings remain at extraordinary levels—45 to 70 per cent in most polls—and he has shown that he can maintain considerable popular support even as he is besieged by scandal. More important, the Republicans seem so disoriented by his ability to survive anything they throw at him, and so disturbed by their own



Hyde after his Senate drubbing, no chance to bring a full case

advice of a vendetta against Republicans stems more from Clinton's natural tendency to "win" his frustrations with his political enemies in conversations with friends than from any thought-out campaign of revenge.

Whoever his true state of mind, Clinton's best chance to influence the judgment of future historians is to reveal some significant legislative accomplishments in the 20 months he has left in the White House. Impeachment will surely figure in the first paragraph of his political obituary—balanced by such accomplishments as eliminating the federal budget deficit, presiding over a period of prosperity and restoring the U.S. welfare system. But Clinton still has time, in odd ways, more when events take the positive side of the ledger. In the state of the union address just he delivered to Congress on Jan. 18, the President unveiled an ambitious list of initiatives, ranging from more money for school construction and the military, to ensuring the long-term financial survival of social security and the American health insurance system (which mainly covers the elderly and those on welfare). To get any of these things done, Clinton must reach agreement with the Republicans who control both Houses of Congress—the very men and women who have just finished voting in favour of two articles of impeachment declaring that he "has undermined the integrity

of the office, has brought disruption on the presidency, has betrayed his trust as President and has acted in a manner subversive of the rule of law and justice."

As a result, says the thinking, both Clinton and the Republicans have powerful incentives to reach agreement on some common measures. At the top of the list are such proposals as more money for school construction and a so-called patients' bill of rights aimed at making sure health insurance companies pay better attention to the rights of their clients. Passing legislation in these areas would allow both sides to claim that they have gone beyond impeachment and are back in the world of getting things done.

The biggest issue on the U.S. political agenda, however, is what to do with the growing federal budget surplus. Clinton wants to reserve most of the surplus for making sure that the social security system does not run out of cash once baby boomers start retiring en masse in about 15 years. If he can strike a deal with the Republican Congress on how to do that, it would go a long way towards making sure that he leaves a significant political legacy to weigh against the agony of impeachment. And it would demonstrate once more that no matter how low he falls, Clinton has an astonishing ability to rise again. □



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# The succession question

After Jordan's King Hussein, a generation of aging Arab leaders may soon disappear

BY BARRY CANE

Among the host of rotating images to emerge from the funeral of Jordan's King Hussein, there was none as poignant—or politically charged—as that involving Hafez Assad. Syria's president was captured in a pensive mood, gazing down upon the coffin of his old foe, palms upturned in Muslim supplication, lips murmuring a silent prayer. His words were not recorded, but his thoughts at that moment may well have dealt with one reality, both his own and that of many of his neighbors. For like the fallen monarch, Assad is also gravely ill. So, too, is King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. It may not be long, in fact, before all three follow Hussein. When they do, they will merely be the third persons for an entire generation of aging Arab autocrats, who sooner rather than later, are about to die. And that is a prospect that many find alarming, raising the spectre of widespread instability in a notoriously volatile region of the world.

"The leaders are frightened," says Talal Salameh, editor of the Beirut daily newspaper *Al-Safir*. "But the people are frightened twice over. They fear their leaders when they are around and fear their absence even more, as their demise could be the harbinger of civil-war calamities." For almost every Arab regime, nature's clock is ticking ominously. Hussein's 46 years on Jordan's throne may be something of a modern record, but many of his fellow Arab rulers are not far behind. Morocco's King Hassan has been in power for 38 years, Bahrain's Sheikh Issa Khalifa for 39. Sheikh Zaid of Abu Dhabi is 80 years old. And what is true for the monarchies is just as true for the republics. Despite his failing health, Syria's Assad was last week re-elected, unopposed, for his fifth seven-year presidential term. Later this year, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, 70, will run, also unopposed, for his fourth six-year term. Next September, Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi is scheduled to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the revolution that brought him to power. Saddam Hussein has been the strongman of Iraq for almost two decades. In most of these countries, succession, when it comes, will, according to *Al-Safir's* Salameh, "add to the region's already serious political, economic and military dangers the

New King Abdullah at his father's grave: fears of instability



threat of internal feuding or civil war—either within the dead leader's entourage, or between various segments of the people who have been molded by repression."

Whether in the desert or in a modern or more threatening urban Jordanian neighborhood, the transfer of power in the kingdom from Hussein to his son, 37-year-old Abdullah, may have progressed smoothly so far, but potentially disruptive succession battles could soon break out on any of its four borders.

To the south, Saudi Arabia's Fahd, 78, has never fully recovered from the stroke he suffered in 1995. To the north, Syria's Assad, 70, has been in frail health for years, apparently due to successive heart attacks. To the west, Palestinian leader Arafat, who turns 70 later this year, is beset by more and more symptoms of the Parkinson's disease everybody but senior Palestinian officials claim is slowly killing him. Finally, in the east, Iraq's Hussein may not be showing any signs of ill health but, given the evident U.S. determination to bomb his regime out of existence, his long-term prospects are poor.

Of all the other Arab rulers, it is probably Fahd who is closest to the end. The Saudi monarch has undergone several surgical operations to correct complications arising from his stroke, none of them very successful. He has been confined to a wheelchair for the past several months. On the rare occasions he is able to get up, he has been hoisted onboard his private jet by crane. A reliable signal accompanied him electronically connected to a hospital in Cleveland, Ohio, which constantly monitors his bodily functions via cyberspace.

In Fahd's absence, the day-to-day running of the Saudi government has been handled by his eldest brother, Crown Prince Abdullah. But Abdullah has not, through apparently ill, at 75. What's more, there is no certainty that he would automatically succeed to the throne in the event of Fahd's death. Power in the kingdom rests in the hands of the seven Saudi brothers, a tightly knit family within the larger Saudi ruling class. The founder of the House of Saud, the late King Abdul Aziz, left four sons by several different wives. The Saudis consider all the sons of one of these wives, Haseel bin Abdul Aziz, as equals.

Over the years, a number of the sons (32, they have been slowly gathering the most power into their own hands) Fahd is a Saudia, as are Defense Minister Sultan, Interior Minister Naif, Riyadh governor Salman and national guard commander

Abdullah. The brothers have been careful to assert their own sons into key positions. Fahd's son, Mohammed, runs the oil-rich eastern province. Sultan's son, Bandar, is ambassador to Washington. "But Crown Prince Abdullah is not a Saudia," notes Palestinian writer Said Aburattah, author of a critical history of the House of Saud. "So it's clear that there might well be a battle for the throne once Fahd is gone. If that happens, it could get very interesting."

An interesting, perhaps, in the gradual escalation process that already appears to be under way in Syria. As his health has deteriorated over the past five years, Assad has been quietly grooming a successor in his son, Bashar, 34, a first-education ophthalmologist. Originally, it was Bashar's elder



YASSER ARAFAT

The 69-year-old Palestinian leader shows signs of Parkinson's disease.



HAFEZ ASSAD

At 70, Syria's president is in frail health and his 34-year-old son for the nation's leadership.



KING FAHD

The Saudi monarch, 78, suffered a stroke four years ago and may be on his last legs.



NEW KING ABDULLAH AT HIS FATHER'S GRAVE

At 70, Syria's president is in frail health and his 34-year-old son for the nation's leadership.



HOSNI MUBARAK

Egypt's president, now 71, has ruled for 18 years but has no clear replacement.



KING FAHD

The Saudi monarch, 78, suffered a stroke four years ago and may be on his last legs.



KING FAHD

The Saudi monarch, 78, suffered a stroke four years ago and may be on his last legs.



KING FAHD

The Saudi monarch, 78, suffered a stroke four years ago and may be on his last legs.

brother, Bashar, who had been appointed by his father to oversee to an end on a long night in Damascus in 1994, when Bashar was killed in a car accident near the city's airport. Since then, Bashar has been slowly making up the ladder. A year ago, he was made a colonel in the Syrian army. Soon after, he took over the Lebanon file, serving as proconsul in charge of managing affairs in the Syrian-controlled neighboring state. Later this year, the ruling Baath Party is expected to name him to a position in the national leadership, giving him the political clout to watch the line around for him in the military.

Despite his gradual advantages, Bashar still lacks an explicit battle to succeed his father. The choice in Syria is religious Assad, like virtually all of the ruling hierarchy in the country, is an Alawite, a member of a minority sect defined by most of the Syrian Sunni majority. Led by the widely Assad, the Alawites have managed to hang onto control in Syria through a combination of guile and brute

force. "In that connection," notes one Damascus-based Western diplomat, "Bashar has yet to prove his mettle. The longer his father stays in power, the better his chances. But it's really a race against time in view of his father's declining health."

For the Palestinians, the dilemma is even more profound. Arafat is clearly approaching the end, no matter how strenuous the official denials. He is finding it increasingly difficult to control the trembling lip and hands, regarded by many as symptoms of Parkinson's disease. He is, as well, the despair of colleagues, plagued by worsening lapses in his attention span. Even Arafat recently hinted that he does not expect to be around much longer than two more years. Yet he has never designated a successor.

"When the old man goes," Jerome Lindman-based Palestinian Intellectual Arafat, "there's going to be a bloody breakdown."

All the national, there are few indications of who might prove strong enough to claim Arafat's mantle. "I suspect it will be someone local," speculates Palestinian writer Shalabi, author of the recent Arafat biography, pointing out that the movement is now divided between those who stayed behind in Israeli-occupied Palestine and the "outsiders," like Arafat, who spent years in exile. Among the would-be successors, western negotiator Pashat Hassan, for years Arafat's representative in Jerusalem, may be a leading contender. In the light of uncertainty, the prospect for the leadership might dramatic into national divisions between up a strongman like Jihad Amara Bishri, chief of the Protective Security Service, Arafat's notorious "thought police."

If the future is divided, however, the present is not. Biology's untimely rules dictate continuing change for the Arab Middle East. Moreover, there is an uncertainty about the threat of a new succession in the region. Whether monarchy or republic, institutions do not seem to count for much. It may be no surprise to see Jordan's King Hussein succeeded by his eldest son. But it is startling to see the same process under way in Syria. And Assad is not alone. Iraq's Hussein, Syria's Gaddafi, even Egypt's Mubarak, all are grooming sons for the succession. "It's hard to escape the conclusion," says Aburattah, "that we are witnessing a return to tribalism." The question, as in all dynasties, will be whether the son is the equal of the father.

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## World NOTES

### BORDER WAR RAGES

Ethiopia accused Eritrea of killing 12 civilians in shelling attacks on villages near the disputed town of Zalambessa, a center of fighting in their renewed border war. Eritrea occupied Zalambessa during the first round of fighting last May but both nations claim the town. The European Union called for an end to hostilities, but Ethiopia appeared to have the upper hand and vowed to continue fighting.

### TELEPHONE SCAM BUSTED

Benoit Morel Langman, 42, of Montreal, the ringleader behind a telemarketing scheme that bilked nearly 1,200 Americans out of as much as \$6 million (\$1.5) in a phony lottery scam, was sentenced to seven years in prison and ordered to pay \$1.7 million in restitution by a court in Greenville, N.C. Montreal police arrested Langman in January 1997, following an FBI investigation that was prompted by a tip from a 79-year-old widow who had been swindled out of \$102,000.

### HOPES FOR KOSOVO

Preparing for a possible peace deal in Kosovo, Washington and London agreed to send money, tanks and artillery to the Balkans to join a proposed 30,000-strong NATO peacekeeping force. NATO Secretary General Javier Solana said in Ottawa that Canada's "preposition is positive" to joining, but cabinet had not yet made a commitment. Peace talks outside Pristina moved slowly, as Serbia insisted that rebel ethnic Albanians must accept Serbian sovereignty over the province.

### KILLER AVALANCHE

A powerful avalanche slumped at least 12 lives in the French Alps. The slide rumbled down the slopes of Chamonix valley, a ski resort 50 km southeast of Geneva, and buried 17 skiers.

### TINKY WINKY IN SEX FLAP

Gay groups said that just because Tinky Winky, one of the popular Teletubbies children's TV characters, came out as a conservative religious leader Rev. Jerry Falwell has no right to question his sexual orientation. In an article entitled "Tinky Winky Comes Out of the Closet," a Falwell publication noted that Tinky Winky is purple, has an antenna on his head shaped like a triangle—the gay pride symbol—and has been a favorite of gay groups worldwide.



### PROTEST IN DENIM:

Wearing jeans, female members of Italy's lower house of parliament in Rome stand with signs spelling out "Jeans as alibi for rape." The legislators were protesting an appeals court ruling that overturned the 1992 conviction of a 46-year-old driving instructor in southern Italy, who was sentenced to 32 months in jail for raping an 18-year-old student. Appellate Judge Giovanni Tridico ruled that it would be impossible to remove a pair of tight women's jeans "without the co-operation of the person wearing them." To protest, the female lawmakers called on the women of Italy to join a "short skirt" and wear jeans. In support, a popular TV host loaned her her chic dresses also donned denim.

## A tainted-blood trial in France

For the first time since the Second World War, French politicians are in court to defend their actions while in government—and the issue is distressingly familiar to Canadians. Former prime minister Laurent Fabius, former health minister Edouard Herve and former social affairs minister Georges Duboin are on trial in Paris for allegedly failing to safeguard France's blood supply from the virus that causes AIDS. In a prosecution initiated by seven victims—five of whom have since died—the trio is accused of deliberately delaying systematic screening for the AIDS virus with an American-made test in 1985

until a similar French process was ready. As a result of the delay, nearly 4,600 people in France eventually contracted AIDS from blood transfusions. During the same period in Canada, an estimated 22,000 people contracted hepatitis C through transfusions and some 1,400 were infected with the AIDS virus. In 1997, Justice Horace Krever's inquiry into tainted blood in Canada recommended compensation for victims, but it stopped short of assessing criminal wrongdoing. In France, however, the case's defendants face up to five years in prison and \$200,000 in fines. All three insisted they were not at fault.

## Gunmakers held liable for shooting deaths

In a closely watched case, a jury in New York City found 15 handgun manufacturers liable in the shootings of seven people there. Lawyers for families of six murder victims and one shooting survivor focused on so-called "negligent marketing," arguing that the makers sent more guns than needed to states with lax gun laws and the weapons entered the illegal market, leading to the deaths. Experts said manufacturers could now be held liable for bloodshed the way tobacco firms have been blamed for smoking-related deaths. But defense lawyers also claimed victory because the jury awarded damages only to the survivor.

**HOW GLOBAL  
CARTELS GOUGED  
CANADIAN  
FARMERS**

# THE PRICE FIXERS

BY JOHN NICOLL and JOCK FERGUSON

It looked like any other corporate meeting. The nine executives greeted each other cordially as they gathered in a suite on the 33rd floor of the Hyatt Regency hotel in downtown Vancouver. The subject of conversation that day in June, 1993, (6) not seem anything special—the price of an agricultural feed additive called lysine. Who would have known that the players at this meeting were part of a global price-fixing conspiracy? What they in turn didn't suspect was that one among them was an FBI mole, a man who had already secretly recorded dozens of similar meetings. The ordinary-sounding lysine, which goes into everything from hogs and poultry to actually worth almost \$1 billion a year in worldwide sales at rates controlled by this group of men. At the Vancouver meeting, the conspirators began a process that would match up the Canadian price of lysine by 50 per cent—money taken from the pockets of hog and poultry farmers and, ultimately, consumers.

Two years later this time at a hotel near the Toronto airport, it was another suite. Lysine-based Archer-Daniels-Midland Co., which ran the Vancouver meeting, was again among the corporate conspirators. ADM representative Barrie Cox bent a Swiss "conspirator" for un-decoding the fixed price of citric acid—an ingredient found in soft drinks, drum brakes and detergent. The citric acid group, which called itself the G4, met secretly to run this \$1.4-billion-a-year market under the guise of quarterly meetings of a manufacturers association. The

group kept the fix going for three years and dubbed themselves "barons," who reported to "masters" at their head offices.

The link between the lysine and citric acid scenes was Cox's "master," Terence Wilson, a grain-balling executive and a group vice-president at ADM, the \$20-billion-a-year food giant that took hold as the "super-market to the world." Unmistakably, ADM's executive offices provided the FBI's mole with these meetings, a man named Mark Whitacre. The evidence he gathered linked ADM to global plots to price-fix and to pay record fines of \$140 million in the United States in 1996 and \$18 million last year in Canada. Then, it led to a price-fixing trial that wrapped up in Chicago last September—and proved an eye-opener for Canadian authorities. From the hours of tape and mountains of documents in that case, *Macleans* has learned the breadth of the price-fixing schemes in Canada and the sheer audacity of competitors who joined forces in bookkeeping for greater profit. What also becomes clear is that Canada was a key component in the global conspiracy. Mark Cox, a lawyer with the federal competition bureau, said Canada had to be aside for the cartels' efforts to succeed. "The companies couldn't risk having lysine flowing back across the border to disrupt the rigged U.S. market," he said, "so they had to fix the Canadian price, too."

Whitacre's tapes and notes about the elaborate schemes led to the Chicago trial and the convictions of Wilson, 60, and Nick Anagnostou, 40, an ADM executive vice-president and the son of chairman executive

Dwayne Andrews. Although Whitacre was an FBI informant, his immunity from prosecution did not include the last few months of price-raping in the summer of 1992 and he, too, was found guilty. The three men will be sentenced for the price-fixing conspiracy on Feb. 26. But Whitacre's tapes were so damning that a checkered past did not harm the prosecution's case. The informant already serving nine years in prison for embezzling \$14 million from ADM—money that he misappropriated as ADM's method of giving off-the-books payments to his top executives—ADM denies such a practice.

There are other Canadian elements to this case. The food giant's 1986 acquisition by the U.S. government was handled by former Canadian prime minister Brian Mulroney, who has been an ADM board member since Oct. 21, 1990. Financial analysts loaded his efforts. But nothing could stem the flow of money from ADM's coffers. It said when competitors have paid a total of \$340 million to settle civil lawsuits launched by American farmers and manufacturers who used lysine and citric acid. Then just last week, ADM was hit with as

## THE MOLE WHO CRACKED A CONSPIRACY

Mark Whitacre used to fail his fellow executives at Archer-Daniels-Midland Co. he had been replaced as a child when his parents' car collided with a deer. He spent some time in an orphanage, he said, and then he was adopted by the owner of King's Island, an amusement park in Cincinnati. It was all a lie—his parents are still alive—but nothing like the whoppers Whitacre told when he took over as head of ADM's bioproducts division. He told then-chairman Dwayne Andrews that a Japanese competitor had sabotaged ADM's new production plant for lysine, an additive that puts more meat on hogs and poultry. In August, 1992, Whitacre's story convinced Andrews, was trying to extort millions from the company.

FBI special agent Brian Shepard was called in to investigate. In November, 1992, Shepard conducted formal interviews and then, one night, he and Whitacre talked in the executive's office for five hours. Whitacre admitted that the sabotage story was a hoax, but dangled something even more interesting, he told

the FBI to raid ADM headquarters on June 27, 1993. Within days, his role as an informer was exposed and he was later fired. Whitacre says Andrews vowed that he would "regret the day he was born."

A few weeks after the raid, an ADM spokesman said the company discovered evidence, "in almost blind luck," that Whitacre had embezzled \$12.6 million from ADM. The company said Whitacre diverted money to personal bank accounts in Switzerland and the Cayman Islands. Whitacre maintains the money was part of a secret bonus system used to reward top ADM executives. But no evidence surfaced that other executives received such bonuses. In August, 1993, Whitacre admitted suicide—attempted to hang himself in his garage—in response to the serious allegations against him.

Two Canadians on the ADM board—former prime minister Brian Mulroney and F. Ross Johnson, the former CEO of R.R. Donnelley Ltd.—in Montreal told the *Macleans* that the stories surfaced about fund diversions and company spying. In a speech to business students in Atlanta, Johnson got the crowd laughing with the line that Whitacre "tried to commit suicide, but he did it in a so-called garage, which is not the place to do it." Mulroney told *Macleans* that on Oct. 10, 1995, meeting that the man co-operated with the FBI, but wouldn't co-operate with the ADM board. In March, 1996, Whitacre was finally convicted of money-laundering, was fined and income tax evaded. He was sentenced to nine years in jail and ordered to pay \$15 million in restitution—\$12.6 million plus interest.

Whitacre, who is now 40, teaches high school and college courses in biology, anatomy and surgery in the Georgia Institute of Technology. Feb. 26 sentencing for price-fixing during the period before his FBI immunity. Whitacre did not want to say much. But he did dispute Andrews's claim that he was the "dark cloud" over ADM. "It pisses I wasn't the dark cloud over the company—the price fixing was," he said. He insists that, as the whistle blower, he was being treated too harshly. While ADM and its price-fixing co-conspirators paid more than \$500 million in criminal and civil penalties, Whitacre faces up to eight more years in jail.

Whitacre made clandestine calls to advise the FBI where to place hidden cameras at price-fixing meetings. He carried a false briefcase equipped with a tape recorder or strapped a sophisticated microphone to his chest. Whitacre's evidence enabled



ADM's price in Kansas, 60, (left) Whitacre: he taped meetings for the FBI



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## SPECIAL REPORT

things. We hadn't even heard of this product, lyxine. We had to find out how the market worked. In Canada, where the players were..."

Chandler said the Canadian investigation got a big boost when, in return for immunity from prosecution, Japanese lyxine maker Kyowa Hakko agreed to assist in October, 1996. A year later, competition bureau investigators spent 30 days sifting through company documents and meeting with lawyers and executives from Kyowa Hakko and the Korean firm Sevon. Chandler sent target letters to Ajinomoto and ADM in late 1997 warning them to face justice. ADM initially had already paid a \$140-million fine in the United States, cross forward and agreed to pay a \$14-million fine for its role in the lyxine conspiracy, and a \$1-million fine for its role in the citric acid conspiracy. In part of that deal, Ottawa agreed not to pursue ADM for its role in fixing prices of sodium glutamate, another food additive, nor in its examinations of other food and food additives. However, ADM is committed to helping the government in its investigations. "It was a trade-off in exchange for immunity," Chandler said. After ADM pleaded, Ottawa negotiated a \$3.5-million fine against Ajinomoto of Japan and a \$70,000 fine against Sevon.

**T**he record fines against ADM may be a deterrent, but law enforcement officials on both sides of the border know that attempts to discourage price-fixing will depend on sentences handed out to executives. That's why next week's sentencing of Mike Anderson, Wilson and Whitmore is so important. U.S. justice department officials will seek prison sentences of up to three years for Wilson and Mike Anderson, but request a lesser penalty for the FBI informant. The three women pay that convicted Whitmore had a hard time finding him guilty for those four months before he became an FBI mole because, as one source admitted after the trial, the videotapes and videotapes made possible by Whitmore's collaboration were critical to negotiating guilt.

Some of the U.S. justice department has called the discovery of the lyxine and citric acid schemes "historically the most elaborate and harmful conspiracies ever discovered" by the antitrust division. Since the ADM probe, the FBI has divided the number of agents working on antitrust violations, and the U.S. department of justice now has 20 grand jurors investigating price-fixing. Sources say Ottawa's competition bureau expects to charge more than a dozen corporate household names for similar practices in the coming year. Still, the FBI and other agencies around the world know they can't have a mole in every pricing meeting, or even know the name of every product that could be fixed. What the enforcers hope is that the crackdowns, convictions and sentences will scare the cartels back into competition. □



Minemura  
hoping to  
win a class-  
action suit

# Fighting for the farmers

## SPECIAL REPORT

**I**n the western world, at Reba Minemura's hog farm, near the border of Appleton and western Ontario, Minemura was discussing his class-action lawsuit and the millions of dollars he is seeking on behalf of pig farmers. Suddenly, he crossed himself, and dropped to the floor to reach inside the carcass of a struggling 200-kg sow. Within seconds, his arm emerged, wrestling a porker the size of a loaf of rye. On steadily hooves, the piglet staggered all to find an available apple. Minemura, cross while, reached into another pen and retrieved a dead piglet. "See what," he said, "in what turning all about."

Minemura believes that survival is also at the heart of his class-action suit against the makers of lyxine, a food additive that produces meatier meat and poultry. Not only do farmers have to contend with, he says, but there are powerful corporations within agriculture that will go to great lengths to get their hands on the pig. He cites as an example the price of hogs, which sank in the past few months to a low of 39 cents a kilogram while an Ontario farmer spends up to \$150 a kilogram to bring pigs to market. Farmers were losing between \$60 and \$100 on each animal. Prices have climbed back, but that just confirms to Minemura that someone has too much control. "It went from 40 cents to 60 cents in one week, and \$1.00 the next. These [hatcheries] companies have power that exceeds the power of the government."

The companies he is suing—for 825 million for conspiracy to fix the economic injury by artificial means and \$10 million in damages—include Archer-Daniels-Midland Co. and Heartland Lysine Inc. of Illinois, Sevon America Inc. of New Jersey and Ajinomoto Co. Inc. of Japan. The companies have pleaded guilty in Canada and the United States to fixing lyxine prices between 1982 and 1995. The lyxine that Minemura used was in a vitamin-mineral pre-mix, which he added to corn grown in his fields. He doesn't know exactly how much the price (hog cost here, but he hopes to earn millions for Ontario's 6,700 hog farmers in the first Canadian civil suit against the conspirators. In the United States, members of the lyxine cartel have been ordered to pay more than \$400 million in civil class-action suits.

Some distributors in Canada have received compensation from the U.S. civil suits, but they have not returned the money. Yet studies by Robert Taylor, a professor of agricultural economics at

Auburn University in Alabama, show distributors passed on all of the lyxine price increases to farmers in the United States. John Connor, a professor of agricultural economy at Purdue University in Indiana, says the price conspiracy took millions and drove from millions of consumers, "but a good-sized farmer did have a substantial share of his potential profits disappear as a result of the lyxine conspiracy."

Connor calculated that the lyxine price-fixing added a full percentage point to a farmer's costs, and a farm's profit margin is typically only one per cent of sales in a good year. "If you translate it into a share of profits," he said, "it might have been the difference between making some or making none, or between making none or suffering a loss of one per cent of sales."

WWE Nip, chairman of the Ontario Pork Producers Marketing Board, said his association has been reluctant to launch a class-action suit. "The producers don't think they are up on the law and what their rights are." But that didn't stop Minemura, the son of a Dutch dairy farmer. He came to Canada in 1978 to raise hogs and is proud that his farm is now a million-dollar export operation. He says he will fight for what he has built, and he has faith he can win. "They're not too big," he said of the companies he is suing. "The legal system deals with them. We don't have to take them on one-on-one."

Jim Bova, owner of Grand Valley Poultry Ltd., is the distributor who supplied Minemura with lyxine-enriched feed. He did not get compensated through any of the U.S. civil suits and says he fears what will happen if the large players in agriculture get too much power. He is especially worried about the growth of large corporate farms in the hog industry. "I'm hoping that out of this mess, independent producers will get enough clout here," he says, "for it's going to take the family hog farm, just like the U.S. big guys killed the family poultry farms."

Minemura expects a long legal battle. But that, again, is the nature of farming—lasting the passage in weather setbacks, and the patience to nurture prize-winning piglets for six months into 100-kg hogs that are ready for market.

JOHN NICOL



# A shock to the system

At least as quickly as it arose, the debate over a single North American currency has disappeared from the political and economic radar screens. It's hard to figure out why, with a few exceptions, the country's policy-making elites are dead set against the idea.

Their position was spelled out clearly last month by Bank of Canada governor Gordon Thiessen, a man more often given to eloquence than plain speaking, as before a central banker. The occasion was a luncheon speech on the launch of Europe's new common currency, the euro, which Thiessen acknowledged was "an economic event of historic proportions."

Paradoxically, the bank governor went on to suggest that Canadians need draw no lessons from Europe's experience.

Saying he wanted to "tip in the hat" to recent discussions about the possible advantages of a common North American dollar, Thiessen insisted that Canada's policy of free exchange-rate flexibility has "served us well over time." Why, he asked, would we want to give it up?

The question deserves a response. Before getting to the substance of Thiessen's argument, however, it's tempting to ask whether his concept of "serving us well" includes a 30-per-cent decline in the Canada-U.S. exchange rate over the past 25 years. If that's how the Bank of Canada defines success, one wonders what would constitute failure.

That said, there are two major problems with Thiessen's defence of the status quo. The first concerns his contention that the Canadian and U.S. economies are simply too different to contemplate a currency union, and will remain so for the foreseeable future. It's true that manufacturing and high technology represent a significantly greater share of economic activity in the United States than in Canada. But the differences between the two countries are surely no greater than those between, say, Portugal and Germany, both of which have embraced the euro.

Far from learning the consequences of monetary union, Portugal's ailing industries close the euro as an essential tool in their efforts to encourage investment, create jobs and narrow the economic gap with the richer nations of Europe. They urged for a common currency precisely because they want to reduce the differences between Por-

tugal's economy and that of Germany and its wealthy northern neighbours. Perhaps Thiessen knows something that the Portuguese don't.

Thiessen's second point—the core of his argument, in fact—is that Canada needs a flexible exchange rate as a "shock absorber" against changes in economic circumstances, such as the rapid decline in commodity



Most employees respecting a routine: serious problems

prices over the past two years. On average, commodity prices have fallen by 30 per cent since the start of 1990, dragged down by slumping demand in Asia. In his speech, Thiessen said that the weakening of the loonie over that period had allowed Canada to resource exporters to survive without having to lower prices and wages or reduce major investments of labour and capital.

On that score, he's absolutely right. But what Thiessen neglected to point out is that the recent drop in commodity prices was not some natural aberration. The pace of decline was certainly faster than would nor-

mally be the case, but commodity prices have been on a downward slide for 200 years, falling in inflation-adjusted terms by 0.35 per cent a year, according to a study by the Bank Credit Analyst Research Group in Montreal. Moreover, a report published by the World Bank last month concluded that commodity prices were already on their way down before the Asian crisis hit in 1997. Even a turnaround in Asia, the bank said, won't spark a full recovery in the resource sector because the underlying causes of the price decline are technological change and increased production.

The obvious lesson here is that Canada's continued dependence on raw materials exports is a blueprint for further reductions in our national standard of living. Commodity prices—and, consequently, the Canadian dollar—will rise and fall over time depending on global economic conditions, but the long-term trend is downward. If we accept Thiessen's "shock absorber" view of the exchange rate, it won't be too many years before the loonie is worth 50 cents (U.S.), or even less. We'll fall further and further behind our major trading partners, all for the sake of preserving jobs and profits in Canada's gradually withering resource industries.

If the Bank of Canada governor—or anyone else in Ottawa, for that matter—has a solution to this dilemma that does not involve our rendering what little remains of the country's monetary sovereignty, it would be nice to hear it. To date, however, Canada's political leaders have taken the easy way out. By allowing the dollar to coast downhill, they've managed to avoid dealing with the reality that our economy faces serious structural problems—problems that can only be resolved by turning our dependence on commodities and mining industries to become more productive and competitive.

The shame of it is that many of these in power already understand the severity of Canada's problems, but are afraid to tell voters the truth for fear of being kicked out of office at the next opportunity. So far, only a few brave souls have dared to address the subject. One of them, unsurprisingly enough, was Raymond Chan, Canada's ambassador to Washington and the Prime Minister's "counsellor." Chan was caught, was not lost on these kinds of issues, the ambassador said recently when a reporter inquired about the prospects for a single North American currency. "But there is no question that if the European model is successful, our descendants will have to deal with it." Assuming, of course, that Canada can wait that long.

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**LOSING ALTITUDE**

Canadian Airlines International Ltd. reported a loss of \$157.6 million for 1997, missing a return to the rocky performance that has plagued the airline for years. The Calgary-based carrier posted a \$5.4-million profit in 1997. Canadian blamed weaker domestic revenues, intense competition in Western Canada and California, and lower revenue from the economically depressed Japanese market for the poor results.

**A HIGH-TECH SWAP**

Electronic Data Systems Corp. of Texas took control of Ottawa-based MCI Systemhouse Inc. as part of a \$35-billion asset-and-services swap with MCI WorldCom Inc. of Mississippi, the second-largest long-distance phone company in the United States. EDS will own MCI WorldCom \$2.94 billion for MCI Systemhouse, making EDS one of the largest information technology services providers in Canada.

**SKYDOME SOLD**

An Ontario court approved the \$110-million purchase of Toronto's exclusive SkyDome stadium by Sports International Corp., a group of Canadian and U.S. businessmen that includes former Blue Jays general manager Pat Gillick. Sportscother offered the only other bid, by Labatt Brewing Co. of Canada Ltd., which owns 90 per cent of the Jays and 46 per cent of the stadium.

**BARRICK BOWS OUT**

Missing giant Barrick Gold Corp. of Toronto abandoned a takeover bid for Argentine Gold Corp., a Vancouver-based junior mining company. A day before the announcement, Barrick CEO Paul Mehrik, who helped lead the quest for Argentine Gold, surprised analysts by resigning after only 18 months on the job. Argentine Gold urged shareholders to reject Barrick's \$153-million offer, arguing the company could fetch a better price.

**WEB DEAL IN PERIL**

A plan by U.S. cable TV giant USA Networks Inc. to buy Web search engine Lycos Inc. appeared in jeopardy as the largest shareholder in Lycos withdrew its support of the deal. QMS Inc., a venture-capital firm that owns 25 per cent of Lycos, said it would not vote for the deal if Lycos's stock price did not recover following news of the deal, the stock dropping 22 per cent over last week.

**Branching out**

Canada Trust announced a \$131-million take-over of Surrey, B.C.-based Surrey Metro Savings, Canada's second largest credit union and the only one that trades publicly. Analysts said the takeover could mark the beginning of consolidation in the credit union movement in the face of increased competition. The deal is subject to approval by regulatory authorities, about 100,000 member customers, and holders of Surrey Metro's shares. Members and shareholders are scheduled to meet on March 17. Details of the agreement were not immediately disclosed, but Canada Trust's bid is worth 60 per cent more than the total value of Surrey Metro's shares. Meanwhile, Ottawa moved to gradually open Canada's financial sector by introducing legislation to widen the powers of foreign financial institutions in Canada. The legislation would allow foreign banks to open branches in Canada without establishing separate Canadian subsidiaries with their own capital base. The measure, first proposed in February, 1997, is not expected to loosen the retail operations of Canadian-owned banks. Foreign banks could not accept deposits of less than \$250,000 and customers would not be provided by the Canada Deposit Insurance Corp. Canada signed a World Trade Organization agreement in 1997 to increase access for foreign banks by June.

**A TRADE-OFF:**

In an effort to avert a trade war with the United States, Ottawa is delaying final approval of its controversial magazine legislation, sponsored by Heritage Minister Sheila Copps, until next month at least. Deputy Prime Minister Herb Gray said the government expects the United States to come up with alternatives to Bill C-55 that would assure the survival of Canadian publications. Bill C-55 would bar foreign publishers from offering advertising services in Canada in "high-risk" editions, such as Sports Illustrated, which have mainly U.S. content.

**Eaton's sinks deeper**

The T. Eaton Co. Ltd., will not be sold—yet. Neither will the venerable department store chain as much money as it had predicted. Toronto-based Eaton's said Friday that it has lowered its fourth-quarter profit forecast, and expects a higher overall loss for the year ended Jan. 31. Its shares dropped 70 cents to \$5.50.

They had traded as high as \$6.70 last week on rumors that Eaton's would be sold to Federal Department Stores Inc., owner of Macy's and Bloomingdale's. Instead, the giant U.S. retailer acquired Finkelstein Cos. Inc., a Minneapolis catalogue company, for \$1.5 billion (U.S.). At the same time, rival Hudson's Bay Co. said it would not change its name to ITC, citing "irreversible" negative feedback from customers.

**FINANCIAL OUTLOOK**

Japan's central bank cut interest rates to their lowest level ever in a bid to kick-start the country's ailing economy. The Bank of Japan lowered the rate for overnight call money—the amount banks charge each other for overnight loans with out collateral—to 0.15 per cent from 0.25. By cutting its benchmark rate, the central bank hopes to lower borrowing costs not only for banks, but for companies and individuals.

But observers said the move will do little to reverse Japan's worst recession since the end of the Second World War. The central bank's at-

tempts to stimulate the economy are falling flat because Japanese banks, burdened by billions of yen in bad loans, have sharply curtailed lending, said George Samra, an economist with the Royal Bank in Toronto. Last week, Japan also

approach a plan to pump about \$35 billion in public money into 15 major banks in coming weeks to repair the country's troubled financial system.

"Necessary policy in Japan is caught in a classic liquidity trap. Interest rates are pretty close to zero, but the banking sector is not fulfilling its role of broadening that money," —Royal Bank of Canada

**RRSP:**  
Far More than a Tax Break

**L**ook at your RRSP as far more than a tax break. Consider it your route to a financially sound retirement. It will not get there by itself. You have to monitor the performance of your plan's investments, making adjustments when necessary to keep it on track towards meeting your goals. ►

"Hebbered—how else to describe the Bank of Japan. The cut in the overnight call loan rate is a token gesture." —Nobutaka Suma

## Your Contribution Limit

Virtually all Canadians have a financially sound retirement on their financial planning lists, and the best way to save towards this goal and supplement any pension benefits is through RRSPs. You will get a tax break when you make your contribution and your

money will grow tax free. You will pay tax eventually when you withdraw income through an annuity or Registered Retirement Income Fund, or if you cash in your plans. But you will be much better off than if you had saved outside an RRSP.

Your RRSP contribution for 1998 is 18 per cent of your 1997 earned income to a maximum of \$13,500, plus any unused contribution room from

previous years, minus any pension adjustments you may have stemming from a pension plan or deferred profit-sharing plan. If you do not use all your RRSP room this year you can carry it forward indefinitely and get your deduction when you make your contribution at some future date.

Earned income includes salary, wages, royalties, business income and rental income but excludes money from dividends, capital gains, interest and other investments. The deadline for

making your 1998 contribution is March 1, 1999. You can make your 1998 contribution anytime during the year and during the first 60 days of 2000. However, if you turn 69 years of age this year, the last day you can have an RRSP, and consequently, your deadline for a contribution, is Dec. 31, 1998. If you remain in the workforce

**"If you do not use all your RRSP room this year you can carry it forward indefinitely and get your deduction when you make your contribution at some future date."**

beyond age 69 and your spouse is 69 or younger, you can contribute to a plan in your spouse's name. He or she, as the case may be, will own the plan, but you will get the deduction.

## Do Not Depend on CPP or QPP Alone

**Y**ou will almost certainly receive some benefits from government-sponsored plans.

But the amounts you will receive will only be a small fraction of your income levels during your working years. As a member of the Canada Pension Plan or Quebec Pension Plan you will receive a monthly payment based on your contributions to the

plan. The maximum payment for 1999 is \$751.67 a month. In addition, you will receive the Old Age Security Pension, which currently is a maximum of \$410.82 a month. The Old Age Security Pension, but not the Canada or Quebec Pension, is subject to the clawback

or repayment to the federal government of 15 cents for every dollar earned over \$53,215.



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## Will You Have Enough?

Do not look at your RRSP as simply a way to cut your taxes. Look at it as part of your financial plan to meet the specific goal of a financially sound retirement. Moreover, you should monitor your plan closely as the number of years to retirement shrinks so you can make any adjustments to your contributions, other savings and investment strategy to stay on track.

You should start by setting some realistic projections about how much income you will need from your RRSPs when you retire. Just remember that by the time you retire you will probably have paid off your mortgage and your children will be self-sufficient financially, so you will likely need less money to maintain your present lifestyle. If you cannot live on your government pension income, and if you have limited or no benefits accrued in a private pension plan, then you had better build RRSP assets.

If you retire at age 65 the rule of thumb is that \$50,000 of RRSP assets will provide you with about \$3,000 to \$4,500 annually for about 30 years. Your actual income level will depend on your rate of return and whether

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you would sooner take smaller amounts in the early years and larger amounts later to offset inflation. Alternatively you might want to take out more funds in your 60s and 70s for travel and less when you are in your 50s.

If you require, say \$50,000 income a year from your plan, you should set your target at about \$700,000 to \$800,000 in current dollars. If you are 20 years from retirement, you should double that amount to reflect inflation. Whether or not you can attain that target depends on how much you currently have in your plan, the number of years to retirement and the rate of return you currently earn.

If you are 45 and have \$50,000 in your RRSPs, you can hit \$1,400,000 provided you and your spouse each contribute \$10,000 annually for the next 25 years and earn an average annual rate of return of nine per cent. This is a reasonable rate on which to base projections if you invest a major portion of your assets in equities or in equity funds. Some mutual funds have done much better over the past decade while some others have performed worse. If you plan to invest in guaranteed investments for your plans, you should probably use current five-year rates which approach five per cent.

Time means everything in retirement saving. If you and your spouse are 55 and have \$100,000 in RRSPs and decide that each of you will contribute \$50,000 a year for the next 10 years,

**"Some mutual funds have done much better over the past decade while some others have performed worse."**

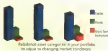
you can anticipate accumulating \$160,000 in RRSPs at 65 assuming the nine per cent rate of return.

Some people dream of early retirement. Early retirement, however, can be an expensive proposition because your funds have to last all that much longer. Moreover, you may have to make a lot of sacrifices to accumulate the capital you need. If your target is \$1,000,000 at age 65 in 20 years and you have no RRSPs now, you and your spouse each will have to contribute about \$5,000 a year and earn nine per cent to reach your goal.

If you can only earn, on average, a seven-per-cent rate, you will have to set aside about \$12,000 a year. If your rate is five per cent on average, you will have to contribute \$25,000 annually.

## What To Expect When You're Investing.

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### Asset Allocation

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\*Data Source: CRD/Northern Fidelity Investments, 1992.



## Boost Your Foreign Content

The Investment Funds Institute of Canada has been lobbying the federal government to boost the foreign content limit of RRSPs to 30 per cent from the current 20 per cent. For good reason: Canada represents less than three per cent of world markets, yet Canadians are required to put the bulk of their retirement savings in the Canadian market. Raising the limit will allow greater diversification which can reduce risk. As well, some foreign markets, and in particular, the U.S. mar-

ket, have provided better long-term returns than the Canadian market.

If you want more foreign content in your RRSP and you do not want to wait for the federal government to make its move, there is a way to boost your foreign content: in as much as 40 per cent. It involves holding Labour Sponsored Investment Funds in your RRSP.

Labour Sponsored Investment Funds are a type of mutual fund that invests only in small and medium-sized Canadian businesses — the segment of the economy responsible for many new jobs. Their name stems from the fact that labour organizations must be involved as sponsors of the funds. While these labour organizations elect the majority of each fund's board of directors, the day-to-day investment operations are almost always under the thumb of investment professionals. People who invest in these other personally or for their RRSPs get federal and provincial tax credits, which total as much as \$1,500 on an investment of \$5,000 depending on your province. You can keep the credits only if you hold the investment for a minimum eight-year period. In fact, some provinces do not allow redemptions prior to the end of the eight-year hold period (with a few exceptions such as if the investor becomes disabled). The credits offset some of the risk of investing in speculative investments. LSIIFs are suitable only for investors who understand and who can afford the risks and who will not require their money soon.

The Income Tax Act has a provision which allows investors to boost the foreign property content of their RRSPs by 10 for every \$1 invested in what is called "small business property" to a maximum of 40 per cent of the book value of the RRSP. What is different now is that late last year Revenue Canada decided that Labour Sponsored Investment Funds are

in fact small-business property. The formula for determining your allowable foreign content is a bit complex because it uses your average LSIIF holding over the past three months.

**“...some foreign markets, and in particular, the U.S. market, have provided better long-term returns than the Canadian market.”**

So if your RRSP had \$5,000 of LSIIFs in it three months ago and the book value at cost of your plan is \$100,000, you are allowed an additional \$15,000 of foreign property on top of the \$20,000 you were already allowed. If you contribute \$50,000 to RRSPs this month and invest half in an LSIIF, your plan's book value will be \$115,000. Your allowable foreign content will rise by \$5,000 a month over the next three months. However, there is a ceiling — and your new limit will be 40 per cent of your plan, or \$44,000.

## Picking the Investments which Meet Your Needs

Equities and equity mutual funds have tended to provide better long-term rates of return than guaranteed funds. However, on a short-term basis, returns from equities can fluctuate widely. This is not a problem for long-term investors who can benefit from a market slump by making RRSP contributions when prices are low with the knowledge that markets recover and historically have subsequently moved to set new records.

If, however, you are approaching or have reached retirement, you have to be much more aware of market risk and its potential impact on your financial well-being. If you have limited assets, then a market downturn will reduce the amount of capital from which you will get income. Moreover, if you withdraw funds from your retirement savings for income when the markets are down, you will have less capital invested when the market recovers.

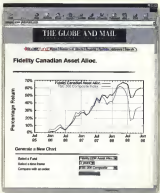
It is for this reason that conservative investors should take an asset allocation approach to their retirement savings. That means having a mix of growth and income assets based on the idea that when one segment of your portfolio might not be doing well, another portion will have good returns. Consequently, your overall rate of return will fluctuate less than if you had everything invested in equities.

Asset allocation can also involve diversification among fixed-income investments by currency and bond maturity, or diversification among equities by management style, company size and market.

If you want to take an asset allocation approach you have several choices. You can create and monitor your own portfolio of different types of funds. You can choose among the many off-the-shelf balanced and asset allocation funds offered by the mutual fund industry. Alternatively, you can use one of the asset allocation services that have been created for some fund companies and by some banks.

You would determine your personal risk profile by answering some pointed questions about yourself and your circumstances. Based on this, you would purchase a specific mix of mutual funds. From time to time, the mix would be rebalanced to reflect changes in market levels or in your personal risk profile. ■

## It's RRSP season. Do you dare to compare?



Go ahead. Take the dare. Check out the history of any fund with GLOBEFUND.com's powerful charting feature before you invest. Charting allows you to compare the performance of your funds against indexes like the TSE 300, Dow Jones, S&P or against other funds you are interested in. You can also get expert commentary, performance reports, articles from The Globe and Mail, and Globe Portfolio where you can track the performance of your personal fund portfolio. It's just that simple. And it's FREE!

**“If you want more foreign content in your RRSP... there is a way to boost your foreign content to as much as 40 per cent.”**

ket, have provided better long-term returns than the Canadian market. Indeed, the 10-year average annual return for the widely used Standard & Poor 500 index is better than 20 per cent in Canadian dollar terms, com-

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\*Source: CIBIS Technology Group

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## Personal Finance

# The RRSP takes on the world

**A**mong Canadians who are saving for retirement, few issues are as contentious as the rule that restricts the amount of foreign property that can be held in a registered retirement savings plan. Detractors of the 30-per-cent limit say it makes sense in view of the generous tax deductions for RRSP contributions. Critics—including two parliament story committees, the Conference Board of Canada and, most recently, the mutual fund industry—argue that the rule penalizes individual investors by forcing them to keep most of their savings in Canada, where investment returns have often lagged behind those of major foreign markets.

During the preparation of this week's federal budget, Finance Minister Paul Martin came under strong pressure from Bay Street to raise the foreign-asset ceiling to 30 per cent. But whether or not the government accedes to that request, the mutual fund industry already offers a long list of options for people who want to maximize the foreign content in their RRSPs. Without much difficulty, it is even possible to achieve the equivalent of 100-per-cent foreign exposure while still remaining technically under the federal limit.

The simplest way to get around the 30-per-cent threshold is to invest the domestic portion of a portfolio in funds that keep some of their own assets in foreign securities. (As with the RRSP's foreign-content rule, Revenue Canada allows Canadian mutual funds to invest in more than 20 per cent of their assets in foreign securities.) If you invest 30 per cent of your RRSP in foreign property, as just the case in domestic funds that take advantage of their own 30-per-cent limit, you can legally end up with 30-per-cent foreign content.

Another, increasingly popular option is to invest a large portion of savings in 100-per-cent RRSP-eligible foreign funds. These products are designed to mimic the performance of international foreign funds while remaining fully in compliance with Ottawa's foreign-content rule. Typically, the managers of such funds put 80 per cent of their portfolios into federal or provincial Treasury bills. The rest of the money is invested in futures or options contracts tied to the performance of international securities or various market indices, including the Standard & Poor's 500. It's unclear if the Warren Stanley Capital International world index, Canada's first 100-per-cent RRSP-eligible funds were introduced in the late 1980s by Global Strategy, a Toronto-based fund company. Since then, their popularity has soared, to the point where the industry now offers



Money matters in London: Canadian markets traditionally underperform those abroad

132 such funds with combined assets of \$11.8 billion—three per cent of the total amount of money invested in mutual funds in Canada.

Yet another way investors have found to get around the 30-per-cent foreign-content rule is to invest in a fund that holds bonds issued by the World Bank. Although bonds of this type are denominated in a wide variety of major foreign currencies—making them useful for investors who want protection against a possible drop in the value of the Canadian dollar—Revenue Canada regards them as domestic assets because Canada is a member of the World Bank. "You should hate to bring attention to this type of thing because the government might decide to change the rules," says Gordon Stronach, a Vancouver-based financial adviser with Merrill Lynch Canada Inc. and author of *Shower or Mutual Funds* on the

other hand, he says, Canada has historically been "one of the worst investment markets in the world. Not to maximize your foreign content is just to make the obvious."

Recently, the Toronto Dominion Bank came up with an additional option for RRSP investors: a series of 20-year notes (or debt obligations of the bank) tied to the performance of specific mutual funds, such as the Fidelity International Portfolio Fund or the Templeton International Stock Fund. These "linked notes" are refundable daily and provide the same rates of return as well-known actively managed funds, less a one-per-cent purchase commission and an annual management fee of 0.6 per cent or less. But because the banks the issuer, the notes qualify as 100-per-cent Canadian content.

As with any investment decision, RRSP holders should realize the costs associated with each of these holdings before buying. They should also avoid getting too much of their money in one foreign market, regardless of how well it appears to be doing now. By spreading that RRSP money over several markets, it should be possible to earn higher returns with less risk than an investor would earn by leaving his money entirely within Canada—and all without violating Ottawa's foreign-content rule.

## GOING GLOBAL

The following figures show how much an investor would have earned A. at the start of 1993, he made had put \$1,000 into the Toronto Stock Exchange 300 composite index, compared with the returns that would have been generated if some or all of the prescribed limit invested in a basket of foreign stocks representing the Warren Stanley Capital International world index.

Portfolio	Value of \$1,000 at Dec. 31, 1993
100% TSE	\$1,842
60% TSE, 20% MSCI	\$1,784
40% TSE, 60% MSCI	\$1,614
100% MSCI	\$1,728

ROSS LUTER



# Peter C. Newman

## Investors beware the ideo of April

**T**he stock market is not a casino, which is unfair because casinos have rules while share prices only follow the flustering vagaries of greed and fear. But when it comes to guessing the likelihood of a major market correction, there is one fairly dependable signal.

The day you have a writer or too driver shilling for some highly volatile stock, well, *As I leave the country, many a cabby has got lost in his home town, rhapsodizing about some high-tech miracle until from Silicon Valley North that's about to reverse gravity. Writers have allowed my soap to grow cold, as they told the latest Internet server initial purchase offer for a red-hot new outfit that promises to monitor my morning toast while delivering the latest NASDAQ trading quote.*

These so-called Masters of the Universe and his words like *firm* have created an unprecedented market mania. It has driven the Dow Jones Industrial Average from just over 1,000 to just under 10,000 in the past two decades of nearly uninterrupted, almost vertical increases. It can't last. It won't. And it shouldn't.

When terminally unsophisticated investors start playing the market, the limits of potential begins have been reached—there are no new purchasers left to fuel a rising market. During the past century, there have been 18 bear markets, but projected as a graph they show up as more squiggles—even the great crash of 1929—compared to the precipitous slide that could occur in the next major correction from today's Mount Everest-like peak. The insanity of the recent was best caught in a headline last week in *The Vancouver Sun*: "Rising economy sparks Icy Street." It proclaimed: The story made the valid point that "the too-good-to-be-true economy is taking the machinery out of a rebalancing stock market" because investors have already discounted the foreseeable economic significance and have begun to search for the inevitable increase in interest rates that will signal the inevitable downturn. Its most likely timing will be on a Friday or Monday around the middle of April when the American blue-chip companies report their first-quarter earnings.

Instead of fearful delirium (last month's beguilement), the wise investors—those who stop watching *Wall Street* long enough to take in as the occasional *Wall Street Week*—realize that it is corporate earnings that ultimately drive the market. With as many of the blue-chip multinationals depending for their extra profits on their international sales, first-quarter results are bound to suffer. Asia remains an economic quagmire, except for Japan, which is mired out in itself but in deep do-do. Brazil has lost control of its currency and will drag down many of its neighbours as it desperately fights to keep inflation from climbing back to three-digit levels. The

Russian economy has ceased to exist, with only the local Mafia completing any meaningful commercial transactions. Other parts of the European continent, moving to adopt the new euro currency, are facing exponential disruptions that will seriously diminish economic activity and, in the case of economic powerhouse Germany, possibly lead to serious inflation.

It's not a pretty picture and it comes most dangerously into focus when viewed against some of the current market multiples. They are way out of whack—not just for Internet stocks, but for such traditional performers as Coca-Cola, for example, which in the past 12 months was trading as high as 36 times earnings. One analyst, who spoke to me only if I didn't mention his name, used a simplified metaphor to explain the current state of market play: "Do you ever watch the waves coming into the shore?" he asked. "They have height, caused by a combination of tide, wind and the underlying topography of the seabed, but occasionally huge rogue waves come along, created by odd configurations of these physical forces that superimpose themselves on one another. That's what I believe has been happening on the stock market."

The forces contributing to that trend include aging baby boomers who haven't saved for their retirement and cash into the market, because low interest rates keep them out of safer, fixed-income investments. Also, it has become so much easier to do trades instead of having to go downtown, or even phone somebody and make one or two buys or sells a month, you can do your own trades on the Internet and trade 180 times a day. That has the impact of several thousand people who used to trade once a month, and it profoundly influences the market.

Now, we've got a generation of Internet stock guppies, for example, who don't care how ridiculous the multiples get. They're true believers. They see the growth of Internet assets at 100 per cent, even six months, and preach to themselves: "It doesn't matter what the multiples are, this is the wave of the future, and I want to be part of it."

But Scott Paterson, chairman and CEO of Yorkton Securities, which specializes in high-tech investments, cautions: "The real reason stocks have been on such a dramatic upward climb is liquidity. There is more money than there is a supply of stocks." He adds: "Every day, people bring out bigger and bigger chunks of their savings into stocks, especially mutual funds, and that's what I believe will keep the market from falling too drastically. The mania in Internet stocks notwithstanding, there is no doubt the Internet will eventually be bigger than the telephone. There will be huge value created. The mad of the market will only be fundamentally altered when its level of liquidity changes."

Let's hope he's right.



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# People

Edited by  
JENNIFER WICKHAM



## 'The crown jewel'

The man once best known for creating the hugely popular *Shoos* comic book may now be famous—according to Todd McFarlane himself—as “the guy with more money than brains.” The Calgary-born entrepreneur made the coronation when he revealed last week that he was the anonymous bidder who paid \$3 million (U.S.) on Jan. 12 for Mark McGuire’s record-setting 70th-homerun ball. A baseball fanatic, McFarlane, 37, also spent up to paying a total of \$500,000 for other significant homer balls from baseball’s history: 1968 season: McGwire’s first, 67th, 68th and 69th of the year, as well as challenger Sammy Sosa’s 35th, 61st and 66th.

McFarlane’s *Shoos*, first launched in 1989, is the best-selling independent comic in history. A successful 1997 movie version and a

McFarlane collection of homer balls from a historic season

line of fire-action figures have also contributed to a \$100-million cash fortune well able to support his founder’s indulgences—which include past ownership of the NFL’s Edmonton Oilers. But McFarlane only reluctantly turned to comics in 1984 when he had to abandon his own pro-ball aspirations after breaking his ankle while playing centre field for Eastern Washington State University.

Now living in Phoenix with his wife, Wanda, and two young daughters, McFarlane dreams of owning a baseball team—if only to be able to take daily batting practice with the players. As for McGwire’s iconic ball, he plans to send it on a tour of North American ball parks and arenas, and says it will keep its value for decades to come—not just because he plans to own contemporary the possibility of someone hitting 71 home runs in a season. “Right now, I’m the idiot who spent \$3 million on the crown jewel of sports memorabilia,” McFarlane says. “If the record falls, I’m the idiot who spent \$3 million on a \$5 ball.”

## Oscar smitten with history

Call it the war of the epochs—or the Oscars department.

When the Academy Award nominations were announced last week, the leading contenders were all set as if in a time and place far from modern Hollywood. Two Elizabethan-era films—the comedy *Shakespeare in Love* and the court thriller *Elizabeth*—and three Second World War movies—*Saving Private Ryan*, *The Thin Red Line* and *Life Is Beautiful*—generated best picture nominations and dominated in many other categories. With 13 nods, including best ac-



Foster in *Shakespeare in Love* is a nod for best actress

triss (*Gwyneth Paltrow*), best supporting actress (*Jodie Foster*) and original screenplay (*Mark Norman, Tim Stoppard*). *Shakespeare in Love* outdistanced

*Saving Private Ryan*. That film, which depicted the Normandy landings with chilling brutality, garnered 11, including best actor (*Tom Hanks*) and best director (*Steven Spielberg*).

Shakespeare’s 15th-century drama led just one short of last year’s juggernaut, *Titanic*, which received a record-tying 14 nominations (and won 11). And like *Titanic*, *Shakespeare* received those nominations in all the major categories but one—best actor. There is no word yet whether *Joseph Fiennes*, the British actor who played the love-struck playwright and is scheduled to start filming *Forever Mine* on March 17 in Toronto, will bypass the Oscars on March 23 the way the previous snubbed, *Leonardo Di-*

*Caprio*, did last year’s event.

The best actor category is notable for another omission, Canadian *Jim Carrey* was overlooked for his lead role as an unwitting actor in the critically acclaimed *The Liar*. Since 1991, Canadians will have a presence at this year’s ceremony. The National Film Board nabbed its 63rd Oscar nomination, for *Survivor over Zanussi* Square, in the documentary short subject category, while Vincenzo’s *Loans* Gabe Film earned five nods for two of its films, *Gods and Monsters* and *Attitude*. And veteran Canadian director *Morgan Jewison* will receive the prestigious Irving G. Thalberg Award for his body of work, which includes *the Heat of the Night* and *Monty Python* history in the making.

When Rome was at its mightiest, Ephesus was at its zenith. Here, Cleopatra met Mark Antony; the shopping district had street lighting as early as 400 B.C. And at the Library of Celsus, the words of Homer and St. Paul echoed down the marble streets. Ephesus is the world’s best preserved example of the ancient Roman Empire. The street runs you walk in were formed by chariot wheels. You are at history’s gate. You are in Turkey where the history of human endeavor awaits your discovery.

The Celsus Library, Ephesus

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## Battling for basics

Asian parents are joining the push for traditional schools

**S**urrey Traditional School is a large, busy complex in light green paint with dark trim in the burgeoning south of Surrey southeast of Vancouver. Its several wings and sections were added over the years to an original 1940s-era structure. Inside are the frenetic impressions of schools everywhere: the slightly ragged lines of hand-drawn art work taped to drab walls, the faded group pictures of classes gone on ahead. But, as busy as it looks, what takes place behind the classroom doors—as in a growing number of other so-called traditional public schools in British Columbia—is a matter of increasingly heated dispute. Some parents, academics and school administrators applaud Surrey's approach as a bracing alternative to the group-centred teaching of most public classrooms. Others see an educational throwback—decals in rows, one-form, rigid uniformity—so the era of the building's most excluded parents. For Grade 7 student Aurat Bhatt, the answer is simple. He made his own choice to come here after five years in regular public school because, he says, "I thought I'd learn more."

Is he right? All that is certain is that a growing number of B.C. parents are convinced that their own kids' teachers would flourish with a more structured approach than what they find in a big public school setting. Across the province, more than 20 parents' groups have petitioned school boards to open traditional schools. In recent months, the movement has gained further support from parents of Chinese descent heralding a friendly echo of their own experiences in British-style schools in Hong Kong. Two groups push for traditional schooling in Richmond and Vancouver are "predecessors to Asian," acknowledges Colleen Gern, spokeswoman for the Vancouver Traditional School Association. This surge of interest among Asian parents has led these schools to be labelled as parental "Asian enclaves"—a special irony, considering that the first wave of traditional-school advocacy in the early 1980s was criticised for being too closely associated with white Christian conservatives. "It's not a cultural thing," says



Grade 7 students at Surrey Traditional. *Act off the mark*

Gern. "This wouldn't be happening if parents felt their children's needs were being met in the public school system."

In fact, the appeal of more traditional teaching crosses racial and regional lines. In addition to the kindergarten-to-Grade-6 Surrey school—the first to open in 1989—traditional schools operate in neighbouring Langley and Abbotsford as well as in Williams Lake and Prince George in the province's interior. Traditional curriculum schools also operate in charter schools in Alberta and have become a focus of parent interest in Ontario and parts of the Maritimes. In Abbotsford and Surrey, meanwhile, parents pitched tents and camped out last spring in order to ensure their children's names topped the application list.

But this back-to-the-future approach also provokes fierce opposition. In Richmond, the Richmond District Parents' Association, is dead against the idea. Vancouver's school board sent the proposal from Gern's group back for more work. The teachers' union, the other parent groups had strong objections," said Vancouver trustee Mary Selous. "It was very difficult even to say, 'We think this is a good idea in principle.'"

Opposition is especially strong from the B.C. teachers' union. "Some of the things don't work and they're being proven

not work for the majority of students," argues teachers' federation president Kit Krueger. "Would we fund a hospital that said, 'Forget MRIs, we're going to use leeches!'"

What actually goes on inside Surrey's classroom hardly seems to justify the fuss. The school follows the same curriculum and abides by all the same provincial and local policies as any other school. The most obvious difference is one that critics oppose: least the school uniforms worn by every student (and some teachers). But there are other, less evident differences.

Traditional schools tend to be organized with their desks in rows—not in study groups. Students also work more on their own, and less on co-operative projects (at Surrey Traditional, individual achievement is rewarded at an annual ceremony organized by parents). Phonics training is longer—though by no means exclusive—part of the reading curriculum than most public schools. Homework is assigned nightly in every class. "At the beginning

of the year," explains Grade 7 and 8 teacher Heather Walls, who joined Surrey Traditional this year after two years in conventional public schools, "we went home a package of rules and expectations. The power came that at any school I've been at before."

Teachers at Surrey Traditional are not required to buy into the pedagogy of traditional teaching. Like others, school principal, Shelley Nightingale, accepted the job because the position was open—not out of special interest in the school's philosophy. But she is becoming a convert. "The more I see," she says, "the more I see it work." But even if it does work, providing throwback schools at public expense remains a tricky issue. One simple drawback to mid-grade classes (traditionists want them abolished, so do most parents, but banning them in traditional schools would just heighten the inequalities elsewhere in the system critics charge. Surrey Traditional, the principal notes, can avoid gift classes because every grade is fully subscribed—indeed, oversubscribed. Hundreds more names are already on waiting lists at Richmond and Vancouver. They reflect a growing demand that even the public elementary school board will find increasingly difficult to ignore.

CHERRY WOOD is Vancouver



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## Obituary

# Ever extraordinary

Writer Iris Murdoch was admired worldwide

For Iris Murdoch, the celebrated British author who died last week at 79 in an Oxford nursing home, the trouble began five years ago. She was visiting Israel, where she and her novels were the focus of a question-and-answer session at the University of the Negev. The crowd did not go well. Murdoch—renowned as one of the most intelligent authors of her time—had difficulty formulating her sentences. The audience soon became restless. Several people got up and left. As recalled by her husband, the critic John Bayley, in his graceful and moving tribute, *Bayley for Iris*, the incident was one of the first indications that Murdoch had Alzheimer's disease. There were other signs, including her difficulties in writing her last novel, Jackson's Dilemma. The very identity of her hero, Jackson, eluded her. "I can't make out who he is or what he's like," she told Bayley. Jackson's disarming fearlessness turned out to be sadly prophetic of Murdoch's own fate, as her ties with the world frayed and broke.

An extraordinarily prolific and inventive writer, Murdoch was read and admired far beyond the borders of England. "She belongs amongst the best or the great novelists of the second half of this century to come out of Britain," declared British novelist Malcolm Bradbury. The author of 35 novels, including *The Sea, A Severed Head, The Nice Girl, The French Boy, The Good Soldier, The Book of Genesis* and the Booker Prize-winning *The Sea, the Sea*, Murdoch was also a philosopher of note, who had taught the subject at Oxford, and written perceptively about morality and the religious sensibility. But there was no real division between the two sides of her career, as her novels are always concerned with the complex interplay of good and evil. They are also as deftly plotted as any modernism, and loaded, sometimes to a fault, with cultural references from Shakespeare to Renaissance painting. But what gives them their contemporary energy and readability is Murdoch's talent for creating intensely interesting characters. Some critics took Murdoch to task for concentrating on a narrow stratum of soci-



Murdoch novels with a complex interplay of good and evil

ety where Hungarian intellectuals and child servants predominated. But beneath the seething bourgeois surface of her tales lay an apprehension of something darker and more disturbing—what one of her best critics, the American novelist Elizabeth Hardwick, has called "intimate reality, even the cosmic case."

Murdoch was born in Dublin in 1919, but moved a year later to London where her father, John, became a civil servant. Her mother, Elizabeth—once described by Murdoch as "a beautiful, lively, witty woman"—died when he was an open teenager. An only child, Murdoch later wrote that she and her parents formed "a perfect trinity of love." She also claimed that her happy, solitary status inspired her to write—partly as a way of creating imaginary brothers and sisters. Although her parents were not well-off, they were and were to finance Murdoch's education. As an adolescent, she learned Latin and Greek, and later picked up

French, German, Italian, Spanish and Russian. In 1938, she went to Oxford to study philosophy and classics, and in 1944 she began a two-year stint working for the United Nations in Europe with refugees, an experience that deeply influenced her thinking.

By the time she met Bayley in 1953, she was a 34-year-old Oxford philosophy teacher, with a string of lovers behind her and her debut novel, the bahamian comedy *Under the*

Net, about to appear. In *Bayley for Iris*, Bayley, six years her junior, recalls how he first saw her riding her bicycle past his window and fell instantly in love. With her expressive eyes, Murdoch was often described as beautiful by her admirers. But her charisma seemed to have been rooted just as much in her brilliance and generosity. She was intensely interested in others and, by Bayley's account, seemed virtually oblivious to herself. Apparently free of the usual writer's vanity, she never read reviews of her own novels, though she gently answered all her fan letters. She was also something of an eccentric. Dismissing the idea of a typewriter or word processor, she wrote her novels out by hand, twice, before handing them over to her editor in plastic bags.

Her 19-year childhood marriage was an unusually happy one. She and Bayley lived, first, in a village of Stopley, Avon, near Oxford, in a house cluttered with books and manuscripts, where she delighted in the wildlife, including the foxes denning in her garden. She claimed that the sounds of the rite passing under the floorboards inspired her work. In 1968, she and Bayley moved into

Oxford itself. The couple loved to travel, and during a stint to Canada she became enthralled with the paintings of Alex Colville, with whom she formed a friendship. She was fascinated by the mysterious, least easy of her creative influences. Bayley would spend hours staring into her book of Colville prints. Even after she contracted Alzheimer's, his paintings were one of the few things that could hold her attention.

In *Bayley for Iris*, Bayley evokes her decline with a heartrending vividness. Their house filled up with old lawns, mice and other junk she collected. As his condition worsened, she watched children's cartoons on television. At one point, Bayley, exhausted by caretaking, expressed his despair at what was happening to them. Murdoch looked up at him with her childlike face and said simply, "But I love you." She was, it seems, extraordinary to the end.

JOHN REMKOR

**While preparing an anti-drug documentary, Vancouver's Odd Squad has learned compassion**



## Taping the horror

BY CHRIS WOOD

**C**rest. At Arsenault has spent 12 years walking one of the most violent and disgusting police beats in Canada. Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, roughly a 10-block area adjoining the trendy Gastown tourist district, is steadily growing by day. After dark, it becomes an open-air marketplace of drugs, violence and despair. In alleys, addicts loiter amidst filth, scrambling through used condoms for crumbs of crack. Outside dollar-a-drink beer hails, the drug dealing barely pauses except when there is a dispute to settle with blows and blood. Almost every day, someone dies with a heroin needle at his or her feet—or still in an arm. Just a year after Arsenault and fellow officers began carrying a video camera on patrol, the footage they have gathered is moving for more than its graphic horror. "I have been amazed by the resilience of the human spirit," says the well-spoken martial arts and weapons expert. "In all this poverty, it shines through."

If that sounds uncharacteristic of a hard-nosed old-school cop, it is just one of the surprises to arise when the Vancouver police officers' amateur video reaches television screens across Canada. Nearly next year, in a documentary entitled *Through a Blue Lens*. Last month, the National Film Board signed an agreement with Vancouver docu-

mentary maker Venetia. After Months to package video footage shot by the members of Odd Squad Productions—all of them part or present Downtown Eastside beat officers—into an hour-long documentary for broadcast, as well as two shorter video packages to be shown in classrooms.

With the cameras on live still shooting (they hope to wrap up their project in June), many scenes already gathered are gruesome. A few are grisly brawls. But all are tragic—a point the uniformed officers of Odd Squad hope gets through to the group between high-end-mall girls to support her habit. Now 40, she has lost it considers its most important audience: addicts tempted by her looks and sleeps most of the time on the street. Crashed in on the surface glamour and seductive danger of drug use. It should be shown by a real war zone, she describes an addict's existence, least get their attention. In Vancouver-area high schools, some of "You are alone. You have no life. Everything you do revolves around the early footage has struck even uninitiated, hunk-of-the-room getting your next fix."

By the time the Odd Squad has set out on—to capture the "The seeds of the project were sown at a 'local party' thrown early in the history that flows from addiction to alcohol, cocaine in 1987 by the first soldiers of the Vancouver Police Department's 10th Division. Arsenault had been carrying not only a handgun but a still camera. "When I first started out on duty," recalls Const. Len comes on the job for years, he was considered a bit eccentric. But Hoggsworth, "I saw the people as junkies or bums. I had no use when he showed some of his slides to the party, the powerful scenes in the officers' lives. But as individuals, the stories that emerged transcended his party. Hoggsworth, At the time, Hoggsworth had been making presentations to police. "I think one of the biggest things out of this is that we about the neighborhood for five years to audiences of glazed eyes had all learned much more compassion," he says. "This could be

school students, as well as other community groups. Soon, Arsenault's photos began to inject a grim dose of reality into the police's school films, and Hoggsworth bought himself a camera. Last March, the two partners and five fellow policemen formed their nonprofit production company, each contributing \$400 to buy a second-quality video camera in the belief that what they taped might drive home, as anti-drug messages often more forcefully.

On shift, policing still comes before taping for the members of the Odd Squad. But when an opportunity arises to capture a moment of life on the mean streets, the camera comes out. One sequence shows two women named Carles, fighting in front of a narrow twenty-chained with drug paraphernalia. Minutes earlier, her boyfriend—who had recently died—had shot himself in the head. He had turned the gun on himself after being reluctantly talked out of a plan to commit an armed robbery for drug money. Carles had walked a block to a pay phone to call an ambulance. Now she is doing the shuffle of an addict beginning to need a fix, and halfheartedly spraying disinfectant on a five-inch open wound on her left forearm. "That's the result of picking bags out of my arm," Carles explains flatly. Doctors tell her the lugs are hallucinations. She doesn't believe them. "The bugs are in there," Carles insists. "I don't care what anybody says."

Another woman sums up what has become of her once promising life. The pampered daughter of a wealthy family, Nicola was introduced to cocaine while still a teenager—by a friend at the stable where she kept her horse. Estranged from her family by 20, she

year brother got her sister—this is somebody's brother or sister." Documentary maker Maclean found it easy to relate to that perspective. The Vancouver-based producer—whose *Dance Above*, an hour-long biography of a poet and socialist, aired last month on Vision TV—has had personal experience watching a family member succumb to heroin addiction. And after making several successful tapes to documentaries with her partner and husband, Emmy Award-winning camerawoman Daniel Mizans, she had already sought out more challenging material in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. *Dance Above*, complete in late 1997, is a profile of David Dobson, who has become one of the few registered nurses advocating for the residents of what income statistics rank as the country's poorest urban community. Knowledge built during those two summers ago, the Mizanses met the officers—and quickly formed a bond. Daniel Mizans gave them tips on camera work. Venetia became intrigued by the double-edged emotional effects of their undertaking. "It not only humanizes the addicts," she observes, "it humanizes the officers."

The officers' emotional involvement becomes evident when Hinton and Hoggsworth join a *Maclean's* reporter for a Saturday night tour of the alleys and bars on either side of the treacherous stretch of East Hastings Street. They are watchful but relaxed, greeting many dozens of the street boys by name. When they encounter Don, an alcoholic who has been trouble making up, Hoggsworth is incredulous that he has two daughters in Gastown who would like to hear from him. Then, Henry—a self-styled "ethical" drug dealer who claims

he "won't sell to children, or pregnant women, or people who just started"—expresses his respect. "I never could get along with police," he acknowledges out of their combat. "These guys, I'd shake their hand." It may help in a world that their policy is not to use any of the personal drug use captured on film in a criminal prosecution.

Still, it is not really the people skills or the discretion of the Odd Squad cops that has secured the co-operation of most of the addicts and alcoholics who have agreed to have their ruined lives profiled. They also strongly support their goal. Down the block from where Henry has faded into an alley, Lena weaves and bobs on the sidewalk, her slinky frame restless in black leggings and a red sweatshirt. She is another of the officers' subjects, being filmed and interviewed respectfully. Why is she bothering? "I wouldn't want anyone else to join my nightmare," she says.

At schools such as Windsor Secondary School in prosperous North Vancouver, the unfiltered footage of life and death on that raw may already be discouraging some youths from just that. When

the Odd Squad, Dale Whitman, addressed about 40 Grade 11 students one Monday morning last month, their presentations at first prompted an undercurrent of whispered jokes and snarling retorts around the back of the second-floor classroom. The self-declared officer even after the officers began to show some still images from their slide collection. Then, Hoggsworth backed on the video player, and introduced the terms to Carlos and her bums. The potent gallery fell silent. Afterward, 19-year-old Allison Phillips shared the opinion that the video made her realize that "this is a message it would be really important to spread." This is a message she said. "You see what can happen. They have very hard lives, it's scary." That is a lesson both the creators and the tragic stars of *Through a Blue Lens* hope to deliver to a much larger audience when the hour-long documentary is broadcast. □



Hinton (left), Arsenault, and an addict (opposite), "inspired by the resilience of the human spirit"



A message from the people who love you Canada's mountains

# Allan Fotheringham

## You gotta get rid of sweat pants and blue jeans

I was Senator Barry Goldwater, who in 1964 ran the most hopeless presidential race ever, who said that the day the United States started to go downhill was the day when jeans became a fashion item. This is a very important statement, to those of us who are serious businessmen, since Steve Wynn's mind works in the opposite direction. Steve has just opened the most expensive hotel in the world in Las Vegas, which as we know is where grown adults go out to dinner in tuxedos and for ladies should be out in jail for wearing tight jeans that don't quite cover the territory.

The Bellagio, Wynn's little rat, is better imagined than described. There are 3,000 rooms and a staff of 9,400. A four-bedroom lake front duplex 3,290 computerized water jets that "dances" to operatic arias and Shazam. There are 135 employees in the greenhouse, and Steve boasts he can change the entire look and smell of the hotel in 18 hours with a new season of flowers.

Thus being Las Vegas, the town that Frank and Dino and Sammy made famous, everything is over the top. There is no wet bar in the 3,000 rooms, no snacks in the fridge, since Steve wants you down stairs at the slot machines where gamblers in wheelchairs stream transfixed by the winning lenses.

There is a slot machine that requires \$1,000 a pull. There are also five-cent machines, where the gamblers collect, some of them wearing jeans. At the Petrusian bar, they serve three flumps with the afternoon tea, champagne, caviar and smoked salmon. The garage holds 6,000 cars.

Five years ago, the New York Times came to a startling discovery. A headline revealed that men in Vegas were actually "wearing polo" to dinner. Thus, to Manhattanites, was skin to the moment when anthropologists revealed that the apes came down out of the trees and started to walk upright.

Steve Wynn is in the same evolutionary mode. He has decided he would like to attract a "higher class of gambler" to Las Vegas. This may be the opposite of the ages, since since society has always regarded gambling itself as slightly above wearing, something Frankie and The Mob might indulge in, but not Middle America.

The problem is that within the past decade, gaming, as they call it, has spread across Middle America. (Over in Vegas, gambling is now called the modified "gaming." Language reflects life.) Last Vegas was looking a little tired and tacky. A new vision was the key to the future.

And so, across The Strip from the \$1.6-billion Bellagio, is among a half-scale model of the Eiffel Tower. The entire mock-up is hand-painted, with coffee grounds mixed in to age the tower's exterior finishes. "Paris is an old city," says architect Adam Thompson hopefully, "so we had to make the model look old, too."

The \$1.6-billion Venetian hotel, which opens in April, is reproducing the Doge's Palace and the Grand Canal, with 22 gondolas. "This is the way the artists who built the original Venice would be working," explains the hotel's Bob Hissak, "if the methods were available."

The "original Venice" I love it, Steve doesn't. He has a better idea. Steve was run out of Vancouver five years ago—apparently by feminist columnists who thought he had too many gold chains and 146 other shave lotion was too seductive—when he wanted to build a 1,600-room hotel casino, convention centre and cruise-ship berth on the water front.

It was too rich for the pater NDP politicians in Victoria who are now bankrupting the province (and have just forced slot machines on a protesting Vancouver city council). Steve, building on his three previous Vegas casinos, wondered what would happen if you built the best hotel in the world.

The Bellagio would look like the burnt orange Italian villas he had seen on Lake Como in the foothills of the Alps. And so, in Piccolo Restaurant, there are 12 contributions from the master in the Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art. Monet, Van Gogh, Monet, Renoir, Cézanne, Matisse, Giacometti. In all, \$300 million on the walls.

A sign at the door to the lobby—the feature of which is a \$10-million, 24-in. coloured glass chandelier—warns its (richly so) that children would not be appreciated. Right across from Wolfgang Puck's L.A.-celebrated Spago restaurant—filled with Nikes, Reeboks, sweat suits, jeans and baseball caps and fat ladies—are Gucci, Chanel, Hermes, Armani, Dior, DKNY and Judith Leiber. Bad taste, I'd like ya to meet good taste. Excess excess.

Everything is forgiven with the unbelievable show just on by Montreal's now famous Cirque du Soleil in Bellagio's 1,800-seat theatre. Half under water, half on stage—thanks to an unbelievable hydraulic lift system perfected by Handing Speciality of Grimsby, Ont.—it is the most spectacular sight these jaded old eyes have ever seen.

So Steve Wynn, 57 looking 47, married (twice) to the same woman for 33 years, subject to a degenerative eye disease, such a better class of gambler? You gotta get rid of those sweat pants. And the jeans. Barry Goldwater, in his grave, is right.



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